

MELANOMA - the facts

DID YOU KNOW?

Around **3.5 million** cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the US every year¹



BUT WHAT IS SKIN CANCER?

There are **two main types** of skin cancer; **non-melanoma** and **melanoma**.² While non-melanoma skin cancer is far more common than melanoma, the majority of deaths are caused by the more aggressive melanoma.³

MELANOMA

Melanoma is a cancer that affects the lower layers of the skin and occurs when these cells lose the ability to control their own growth. Specifically, melanoma is caused by a malfunction in melanocytes – the cells that usually produce pigment to protect your skin from UV radiation.⁴

METASTATIC MELANOMA

If melanoma is left untreated it can grow and spread from the skin to the lymph nodes and subsequently to other parts of the body. This is called metastatic melanoma and is more difficult to treat.⁵

MELANOMA IN THE US

Incidence

Melanoma incidence rates have risen rapidly for the past

30 YEARS, rising on average

 **1.4%** each year over the last 10 years^{3,6}

The **American Cancer Society** estimates that

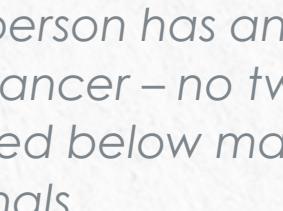
73,870 new cases of melanoma will occur in the US

in **2015** alone³

Survival

The **5 YEAR** survival rate

for people with distant stage melanoma at diagnosis in the US remains as low as

 **16%⁷**

In **2015** an estimated

9,940

will die from melanoma³

TREATMENT

Treatment is tailored to the form of skin cancer that a person has and will be appropriate for the risks that are posed by their cancer – no two cancers are exactly the same and the treatments discussed below may vary among those recommended by healthcare professionals.

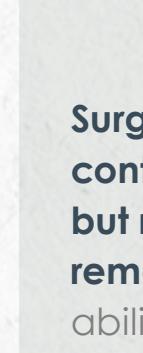
Treating melanoma

The primary treatment for melanoma is often surgery but this often depends on a person's individual circumstances⁸

In order to best plan individual treatments, a staging system is used that tells healthcare professionals how advanced a melanoma is. This system classifies cancers from 'Stage 1-4' depending on their thickness, appearance and whether or not they have spread to other parts of the body⁹

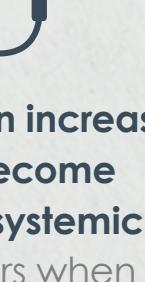
Treating Stage 1-3 melanoma



 Treating stages 1-3 usually involves surgically removing the tumor and an area of surrounding skin. A healthcare professional may also advise further checks or surgeries to ensure that all of the cancer has been removed, such as biopsies.¹⁰ Unfortunately many stage 3 melanomas are not suitable for surgery and some will recur after surgery, in these patients alternative treatments need to be considered.

Treating Stage 4 melanoma



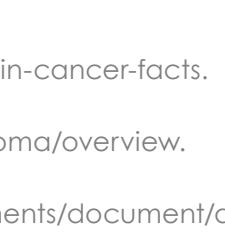
 Stage-4 melanoma will have spread to other parts of the body such as the lungs and brain and is very difficult to manage. Treatment options include radiation, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, or chemotherapy.¹⁰

Matching the treatment to the patient

Melanoma is a complex cancer that may require the use of multiple forms of treatment over the course of the disease. While there have been recent new options in treatment, additional treatment options are needed.



Surgery can be effective in controlling early stage disease but residual tumor cells can remain. These cells have the ability to evade the immune system and as such recurrence occurs in some patients.



As tumor burden increases, patients may become candidates for systemic therapy. Important factors when considering if systemic therapy is warranted include how quickly the disease is progressing and how widespread the disease has become.¹¹



There are patients whose melanoma remains confined to local or distant skin and/or lymph nodes. Although there is currently no consensus as to the optimal treatment approach for these patients, doctors can work with patients to develop an individual treatment plan, which may include newly approved therapies.¹²

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*Accessed September 2015

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