



## DermNet NZ

[Authoritative facts](#) about the skin from the [New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated](#).

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# Skin cancer

For detailed descriptions of the most common types of skin cancer see:

- [Basal cell carcinoma](#)
- [Squamous cell carcinoma](#) (including Bowen's disease)
- [Keratoacanthoma](#)
- [Melanoma](#)

The majority of skin cancer can be prevented by careful [sun protection](#) from an early age, and detected early by regular [self skin examination](#). [Mole mapping](#) and [dermoscopy](#) may be of benefit to those with many or [atypical moles](#).

Other uncommon malignant skin lesions include:

- [Angiosarcomas](#)
- [Atypical fibroxanthoma](#)
- [Bowenoid papulosis](#)
- [Cutaneous B-cell lymphoma](#)
- [Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma](#)
- [Extramammary Paget disease](#)
- [Kaposi sarcoma](#)
- [Merkel cell carcinoma](#)
- [Oral cancer](#)
- [Paget disease](#)
- [Penile intraepithelial neoplasia](#)
- [Vulvar cancer](#)
- [Vulvar intraepithelial neoplasia](#)

Certain skin diseases, internal illnesses and genetic factors may predispose to skin cancer:

- [Arsenic poisoning](#)
- [Bazex syndrome](#)
- [Epidermodysplasia verruciformis](#)
- [Genital warts](#)
- [Gorlin syndrome](#)
- [Human immunodeficiency virus infection](#)
- Immunosuppressive medications, particularly [azathioprine](#) and [ciclosporin](#)
- Abnormal skin such as [lichen sclerosus](#), [linear porokeratosis](#) or longstanding [cutaneous tuberculosis](#)
- [Organ transplantation](#)
- [Premature aging syndromes \(progeria\)](#)
- Sun damage ([ageing skin](#))
- [Torré-Muir syndrome](#)
- [Xeroderma pigmentosum](#)

Current treatments for skin cancer include:

- [Excision biopsy](#)
- [Curettage and electrocautery](#)
- [Mohs surgery](#)
- [Cryotherapy](#)
- [Fluorouracil cream](#)
- [Imiquimod cream](#)
- [Photodynamic therapy](#)
- [Radiotherapy](#)
- [Lasers](#)

## Internal cancers

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The skin may also show signs of [internal malignancy](#) and [skin metastasis](#).

### Related information

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#### Other websites:

- [NIWA Lauder](#) Discussion of Ultraviolet and Ozone levels in NZ.
- [Oncolink](#)
- [Cancer Society of NZ Inc.](#)
- [Skin Cancer Foundation](#)
- [CancerNet's](#) information about skin cancer (National Cancer Institute)
- [Skin cancer](#) - World Health Organization (WHO)
- [On Top of Cancer](#) links to resources about skin cancer

DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service.

If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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