

## Skin Cancer Detection

One of the main reasons skin cancer detection is so important is that if detected early enough it can be easily treated. Skin cancer is increasing in incidence and current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer sometime in their lifetime. It is important that you consider having an overall skin examination. This should be done at least once during adulthood to check for any abnormalities. This also helps establish a “base” for which you can monitor for changes throughout the course of adulthood.

If you have personal or family history of skin cancer, it is important to have an overall skin examination at least annually if not more often. Additionally, if you have moles that are of concern or that have changed recently it is important to have these looked at by one of our dermatologists.

### **What is an examination or screening like and do I need one?**

The screening consists of an exam that begins at the scalp and continues to the soles of the feet. Microscopy is used to study the patterns of growth in moles or to examine skin pigmentation.

If you are at higher risk for the possibility of skin cancer then you should be getting a screening annually. If you have had multiple incidents of skin cancer this should be done even more frequently.

You may also be higher risk if you have had three or more sunburns over the course of your life, because each one doubles your chances for melanoma. This is especially true if you have had sunburns with blistering. You may also be at high risk if you have fair skin that is sensitive to sunlight, freckle easily, are a combination of blonde or red hair with blue or green eyes, as well as other possible traits that could put you in this category. Another risk to consider is if you have had a change in your moles such as size or color, or if a mole has become itchy or bleeds.

### **What is removal of benign growths or skin cancers like?**

Generally speaking, you can have moles, skin tags or other types of growths removed through an out-patient process. There are different approaches that can be used depending on the type of skin abnormality and the location. Most procedures may also require only a local anesthetic and this can also often be used for certain incidents of skin cancer. Depending on the procedure there is often only minor discomfort if any.

## **Will I still be at risk?**

There is no way to prevent moles, melanoma or skin cancer from the doctor's office. Even after having a screening and removal you are still at risk, especially if you are already in a higher risk category. Taking care to prevent exposure to the sun is the best way to avoid issues like these but there is no guarantee you will be clear long term from skin cancer. Early detection is the best form of treatment and prevention towards more serious skin cancer.

**Help reduce your risk by seeing one of our professional and experienced dermatologists right away.** Contact us now to schedule your screening.

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## About Skin & Laser Surgery Center

Under the direction of Dr. Amir A. Bajoghli, Skin & Laser Surgery Center PC specializes in Laser & Dermatologic Surgery as well as Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Skin & Laser Surgery Center treats patients for all skin care concerns, including skin cancer surgery, cosmetic dermatology, sclerotherapy, laser peels, laser hair removal, hyperhidrosis, rosacea, and acne treatments.

### Our Office Locations

Skin & Laser Surgery Center provides a full range of services at our four facilities located throughout the Greater Washington area.

#### Tysons Corner, VA

8130 Boone Blvd.  
Suite 340  
Vienna, VA 22182  
(703) 893-1114

#### Stafford, VA

(800) 264-2653  
125 Hospital Center Blvd.  
Suite 105  
Stafford, VA 22554

#### Woodbridge, VA

2200 Opitz Blvd.  
Suite 245  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
(703) 492-4140

#### Washington, DC

1120 19th N.W.  
Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 955-6995  
MOHS Only

### Contact Us

Do you have a question about The Skin & Laser Surgery Center or our services? Please feel free to contact us at (703) 893-1114 or use one of the following links below.

#### Appointment Requests

Phone - (703) 893-1114

Web - <http://bderm.com/patients/appointment/>

#### Customer Feedback

Phone - (703) 893-1114

Web - <http://bderm.com/contact/feedback/>

#### Billing Questions

Phone - (703) 492-4140 x126

Email - [billingderm@gmail.com](mailto:billingderm@gmail.com)