Skin cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal skin cells. There are different types of skin cancer. Basal cell carcinoma is the most common, followed by squamous cell carcinoma. Malignant melanoma is less common, but more dangerous. Currently there are between 2-3 million non-melanoma skin cancers and 132,000 melanoma skin cancers that occur globally each year.

### Risk Factors
- **Sun exposure:** Regular exposure to the sun increases the risk of skin cancer.
- **Age:** Older people are more likely to develop skin cancer.
- **Personal history:** A history of skin cancer in a family member increases the risk.
- **Prior skin cancer:** People previously treated for skin cancer are at higher risk.

### Types of Skin Cancer (Non-Melanoma)

1. **Basal cell carcinoma (BCC):** The most common type, often found on the head and neck, can be treated with excision, radiation, or cryosurgery.
2. **Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC):** Can develop on sun-exposed skin, usually on the face, can be treated with excision, radiation, or cryosurgery.
3. **Actinic keratoses:** Common precancerous growths, can be treated with cryosurgery, excision, or topical medications.
4. **Lentigo maligna:** Can develop on sun-exposed skin, can be treated with excision, radiation, or cryosurgery.

### Malignant Melanoma (MM)
- **Symptoms:** A mole that changes in size, shape, or color, appears at a new site, becomes painful, itching or bleeding, or forms a scab.
- **Treatment:** Surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, or immunotherapy.

### Skin Cancer Prevention
- **Avoid sun exposure:** During peak hours (10 AM to 4 PM), wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses.
- **Use protective clothing:** Wear long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, and sunglasses.
- **Avoid tanning beds:** They increase the risk of skin cancer.

### Self-Examination
- **Look for any changes** in your skin, such as new growths or changes in existing moles.
- **Check all areas:** Include the scalp, palms, soles, and mucous membranes.

### Treatment
- **Surgical excision:** The most common treatment for skin cancer.
- **Radiation therapy:** Used for small, superficial tumors.
- **Immunotherapy:** Helps the body’s immune system to fight cancer.

### Atypical Moles
- **Appearance:** They may vary in color and shape.
- **Symptoms:** May be painful or itchy.

### Types of Skin Cancer Treatment
- **Excision:** The most common treatment for skin cancer.
- **Laser therapy:** Used for small, superficial tumors.
- **Cryosurgery:** Freezing with liquid nitrogen.
- **Radiation therapy:** Used for tumors that cannot be removed surgically.

### Skin Pathology
- **Epidermis:** The outer layer of the skin.
- **Dermis:** The layer beneath the epidermis, containing blood vessels and nerves.
- **Subcutaneous tissue:** The layer beneath the dermis, containing fat and connective tissue.

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