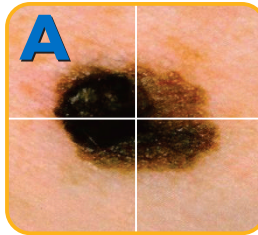


KNOW THE ABCDEs OF MELANOMA

Asymmetry

The two halves of the lesion do not match in size if you draw a line through the middle.



Border

The edges of the lesion appear notched, irregular and uneven.



Colour

The lesion has multiple colours, including shades of black, brown, tan, blue, red or white.



Diameter

The lesion is larger than a pencil eraser which is approximately 6mm.



Evolving

The lesion has changed in size, shape, colour or shows any new trait such as bleeding, itching or crusting.



Source: www.skincancer.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Hair professionals play a key role in skin cancer detection and can help reduce the skyrocketing rates of deadly melanomas in Australia.

A recent survey of 203 hair professionals in Houston, Texas, published in the Archives of Dermatology, investigated skin cancer knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours in the salon finding that more than half of the surveyed hairdressers have already alerted at least one client to abnormal mole on face, neck or scalp.



Source: www.skincancer.org

The hairdressers reported that they naturally looked for suspicious lesions on their clients' scalps (37%), necks (29%) and face (15%). The study also showed that hair professionals who were competent at looking at their own moles and had a personal history of skin cancer were more likely to look at their clients' skin.

To protect yourself and your patients, check your skin regularly and know the warning signs of melanoma.

HOW YOUR HAIR CUT MIGHT SAVE A LIFE



Join us in the fight against skin cancer

WHY YOUR CLIENTS MIGHT BE AT RISK



Every six hours one person dies from melanoma. Melanomas on the head, neck and scalp are especially lethal as they are often diagnosed too late. These areas are sometimes overlooked in routine examinations by physicians and are difficult to see during self-examination as they are usually hidden by hair.

Affected patients die from the disease at nearly twice the rate of people with melanomas elsewhere on the body. In fact, although only six percent of patients have skin lesions on the scalp and neck, they account for 10 percent of all melanoma deaths.

With your help, lethal melanomas could be found early, when they are most treatable.

Source: www.skincancer.org

WHY YOU ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO HELP



You naturally have a close-up view of the scalp, face and neck, and may be the first person to spot evidence of skin cancer on these difficult-to-see, high-risk sites – especially when the hair is wet.

You see your clients on a regular basis – more frequently than a physician – and will most probably notice changes in their appearance and overall well-being easily, including potential changes in their skin.

You often enjoy an easy rapport with your clients, and may frequently share advice on health-related topics. Your clients will appreciate your concern and might get a life-saving skin check following your suggestion.

HOW YOU MIGHT SAVE YOUR CLIENT'S LIFE



Familiarise yourself with the typical characteristics of healthy and suspicious lesions. Signs you should look out for include changes to the size, shape or colour of a mole.

While taking care of your client's hair, pay attention to any unusual lesions on their face, ears, scalp, and neck.

If you see any lesion, spot or odd-looking mole, do not ignore it but bring it to your client's attention, for example by asking "Are you aware of the unusual mole behind your ear?"

Don't worry about offending your client, but try not to alarm them either. Simply tactfully point out the spot and suggest they see a doctor.