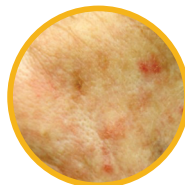


WHAT TO LOOK FOR

SOLAR KERATOSIS

Red, scaly areas that are a warning sign for sun-damaged skin which may develop skin cancers.



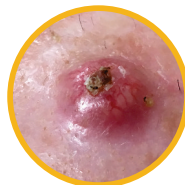
BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

Small, round or flattened lumps or scaling areas that are red, pale or pearly or similar to a sore that doesn't heal.



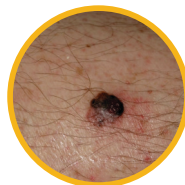
SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

Thick, red and scaly patches, or raised white crusty lumps or open sores which may crust or bleed.



MELANOMA

New spots or moles that change in colour, shape or size, with irregular borders and multiple colours.



QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK YOUR CLIENTS

- Are you aware of the unusual mole?
- Does the mole have any strange sensations?
- Can you tell how long you have had the mole?
- Do you know if the mole has changed recently?

Encourage your client to see a doctor if you notice a new, unusual or changing skin spot or a sore that doesn't heal. You could save their life.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

- Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world with over 12,000 melanoma and over 800,000 non-melanoma cases diagnosed each year.
- 2 in 3 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70. The risk is higher in men than in women.
- The most commonly diagnosed cancer among Australians aged 15-29 years is melanoma.

Source: www.skincancer.org

In your everyday work as a health professional, you regularly view your client's skin and can potentially pick up skin cancers, if you know what to look for. You play a key role in skin cancer detection as you see spots on your clients' skin that they might not be aware of.

To protect yourself and your clients, examine skin regularly and know the warning signs to look for.

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www.skincancercentres.com.au

HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE LIVES



Join us in the fight against skin cancer



National
Skin Cancer
Centres

WHY YOUR CLIENTS MIGHT BE AT RISK



Most skin cancers can be successfully treated if detected early. They can occur anywhere on the body and critical areas include the head, neck and scalp, which are especially lethal as they are hidden from view and often diagnosed too late.

The most likely places for skin cancers to occur on women are the leg and arms, so pay close attention to these areas when performing treatments.

For men, the crucial areas to note are their back, head, neck and trunk.

Your client is especially at risk if they are over 40 years old, has ever been sunburned, has fair skin that burns easily or has lots of moles or freckles.

WHY YOU ARE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO HELP



You naturally have a close up of view of various parts of your client's body, and may be the first person to spot evidence of skin cancer on these difficult to see sites, including the head, neck, back and scalp.

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

You often enjoy an easy rapport and a trusted long-term relationship 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



You do not need to provide an accurate diagnosis but rather point out skin spots that might be suspicious. Familiarise yourself with typical characteristics of skin cancer. Signs you should look out for include changes to the size, shape or colour of a mole.

Whilst undertaking treatment on your client, pay attention to any unusual lesions on their body. If you see any odd looking mole or spot, do not ignore it, but tactfully bring it to your client's attention and suggest that they see a doctor.

With your help, skin cancers could be found early, when they are most treatable.