10 Quick Facts About Melanoma

Find out more about the most serious and potentially fatal form of skin cancer, melanoma, with these 10 quick facts from the Skin Cancer Foundation.

1. Skin cancer is the most common of all cancers. Over 3.5 million cases of basal and squamous cell skin cancer are diagnosed in the U.S. every year.

2. Melanoma will account for more than 73,000 cases of skin cancer in 2015.

3. Skin cancer accounts for nearly half of all cancers in the United States.

4. In 2009, the International Agency for Research on Cancer elevated tanning devices to its highest cancer risk category- “carcinogenic to humans” (Group 1).

5. Melanoma is 10 times more common in whites than in African Americans.

6. Skin cancer is more common in men than in women.

7. Most skin cancers are caused by too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. Much of this exposure comes from the sun, but it also comes from tanning beds.

8. The World Health Organization and the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection recommended that the use of indoor tanning should be restricted in anyone under the age of 18.

9. Melanoma caught during Stage I has a survival rate between 86% and 97%.

10. Melanoma is the number one cancer found in young adults between the ages of 25 and 29.

Source: