

# SKIN CANCER SCREENING

## Who Should be Screened?

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, people at higher risk for all three types of skin cancer are:

- Those with a history of skin cancer in the family
- Those who have fair skin and/or freckles, and who burn easily and peel rather than tan
- Those with blond, red, or light brown hair and blue, green, or gray eyes
- Those with a history of blistering sunburns before the age of 20
- Those with indoor occupations who take part in outdoor recreational activities
- Those with dysplastic moles (moles with precancerous changes)

## Detection

The cure rate for skin cancer could be 100 percent if all skin cancers were brought to a doctor's attention before they had a chance to spread. People should check themselves regularly for new growths or other changes on the skin. Any changes in growths that are already present should be reported to the doctor immediately.

## Diagnosis

When an area of skin does not look normal, the doctor may remove all or part of the growth. This is called a biopsy. To check for cancer cells, the tissue is examined under a microscope by a pathologist or a dermatologist. A biopsy is the only sure way to tell if the problem is cancer.

## Treatment

In treating skin cancer, the doctor's main goal is to remove or destroy the cancer completely. Treatment for skin cancer usually involves some type of surgery.

## Surgery

Many skin cancers can be cut from the skin quickly and easily. In fact, the cancer is sometimes completely removed at the time of the biopsy, and no further treatment is needed.

For more information on skin cancer or screenings, call NurseLine at (816) 932-6220.



[saintlukeshealthsystem.org](http://saintlukeshealthsystem.org)

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