

Common Disorders on Skin of Color

Skin Cancer

The most common cancer in the United States and worldwide.



Melanoma

- Individuals with skin of color have higher percentages of melanoma of the palms, soles, and nailbeds, called Acral Lentiginous Melanoma (ALM).
- Melanomas in Black people, Asians, and Native Hawaiians most often occur on non-exposed skin with less pigment.
- The estimated five-year survival rate for melanoma in Black patients is 71% versus 93% in white patients.

Non-Melanoma

- **Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)**
 - Can look like open sores, red patches, scars, or growths
 - May ooze, crust, or bleed
 - Commonly arise in sun-exposed parts of the body
- **Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)**
 - Can appear scaly red patches, rough or thickened wart-like
 - Most commonly arise in sun-exposed parts of the body

Sources

- “Skin Cancer Facts & Statistics.” The Skin Cancer Foundation, 24 May 2022, <https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/skin-cancer-facts/>.
- “Skin Cancer in People of Color.” The Skin Cancer Foundation, 9 Nov. 2022, <https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/skin-cancer-skin-of-color/>.