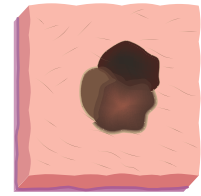
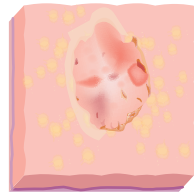


MALIGNANT SKIN LESIONS



Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer and has three common presentations: basal cell carcinoma (BCC), squamous cell carcinoma (SCC), and melanoma.



	Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC)	Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC)	Melanoma
What Is It	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurs when the skin's basal cells mutate Basal cells are found at bottom of epidermis and create new skin cells. Majority of skin cancer cases are BCC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurs when the skin's squamous cells mutate Squamous cells make up the middle and outer layers of the skin. SCC can spread to lymph nodes, if left untreated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurs when the skin's melanocytes mutate Melanocytes produce melanin. Rarest and most serious type of skin cancer, since it can grow quickly and is more common to metastasize
Typical Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brown, black, or blue lesion with darkened areas or with an elevated, undefined border A flat, scaly patch A waxy lesion with an undefined border 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scaly red patches Open sores Raised, thickened or wart-like skin Lesions that crust over, ooze pus, and easily bleed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undefined colors and borders, such as varying tones of black, brown, tan, white, gray, red, pink, or blue Varying size over time
Risk Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UV radiation exposure, such as chronic sun exposure or use of tanning beds History of sunburns Radiation therapy Lighter skin complexion Family history of skin cancer Certain immune-suppressing medications Certain genetic diseases <p>Nursing note: Arsenic exposure is a risk factor for BCC and SCC, but not melanoma.</p>		
Signs and Symptoms	<p>Skin cancers often develop on areas often exposed to sun, such as the head and neck. A common presentation is a new lesion or change in the presentation of an existing lesion such as scabbing, bleeding, irregular growth patterns, or color changes.</p>		
Management Options	Mohs surgery (most common), medication, chemotherapy	Mohs surgery (most common), electrosurgery, chemotherapy	Surgical incision (most common), medication, chemotherapy
Diagnosed by	Skin exam and skin biopsy, possible radiological examination for melanoma concerns		
Patient Education Talking Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of sunscreen with SPF > 30 Long-sleeve clothing and other protective gear in sunlight Avoiding tanning beds Regular professional skin examinations, especially for higher-risk patients <p>(Patients who have been previously diagnosed with malignant skin lesions need to be educated to follow up with all healthcare professionals as indicated.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performing self-examination of skin every few months 		

NOTES

