

SKIN CANCER ASSESSMENT CLINIC

The Skin Cancer Assessment Clinic (SkAssess) is one of a number of speciality clinics run at the Skin Health Institute. In this clinic, we see people with a variety of skin cancers and related skin lesions for diagnosis, advice on treatment and treatment.

THE CLINIC TEAM

On the day of consultation, a number of people will be involved in your care. These will include dermatologists, dermatology registrars and nurses.

DURING YOUR CONSULTATION

Most standard consultations last around half an hour, but please allow 1-2 hours. This allows time for more complex consultations and for any procedures that may need to be done e.g. biopsies or minor excisions. Please be prepared for a possible wait time and arrange car parking accordingly.

Any surgical procedures that may be needed are performed under local anaesthetic. You will be able to drive yourself home.

TYPE OF TREATMENT

Treatment options will be discussed during your consultation. There are various types of treatment available for skin cancers.

Some require topical treatments or radiotherapy, while others require surgical intervention. Sometimes you may be referred to another practitioner within SHI for treatment or, even in some cases, referred to another practice. This will be discussed with you.

FOLLOW UP

This will depend on your treatment plan. You may be required to see the doctor 1-2 weeks after your initial consultation to discuss pathology results and treatment options, or to take out any stitches if you had a procedure.

Results are often given over the telephone, with your consent.

Once treatment has been completed you will be discharged back to your referring doctor.

SKIN CANCER – WHAT TO LOOK FOR

It is important to identify any mole or lesion that may have developed or has changed in size or nature over time. If you or your GP are concerned, seeing a dermatologist to identify or review any suspicious spot on the skin is a sensible precaution. Referral from your GP to the SkAssess clinic may be appropriate.



FACTS ABOUT SKIN CANCER

- Around two thirds of people born in Australia will require treatment for skin cancer at some stage in their life.
- At least 250,000 people require treatment for BCC (Basal Cell Carcinoma, a non-melanoma skin cancer) every year and around 120,000 people require treatment for SCC (Squamous-cell carcinoma) every year.
- Over 10,000 people have a melanoma removed each year.
- Most skin cancers, if detected and treated early, can be cured.
- Unfortunately around 1400 people still die from melanomas each year and 400 people die from SCC.

ANTICOAGULANT MEDICATION

Please inform our doctors if you take any blood thinning medication such as Aspirin, Plavix or Warfarin, or natural remedies such as fish oil. It is also useful to bring your current full list of medication to your appointment.

PARKING

There is metered parking available in the streets close by. Ample paid parking is also available nearby at the Melbourne Museum on Rathdowne St.

COSTS

You will incur a consultation fee payable on the day. A biopsy attracts an additional fee plus a Melbourne Pathology charge. Please call us on (03) 9623 9400 if you would like specific information regarding fees.

OTHER INFORMATION

On the day of your appointment, please ensure that you bring along:

- Medicare Card / Veterans Card
- Pension / Health Care Card
- List of your current medications