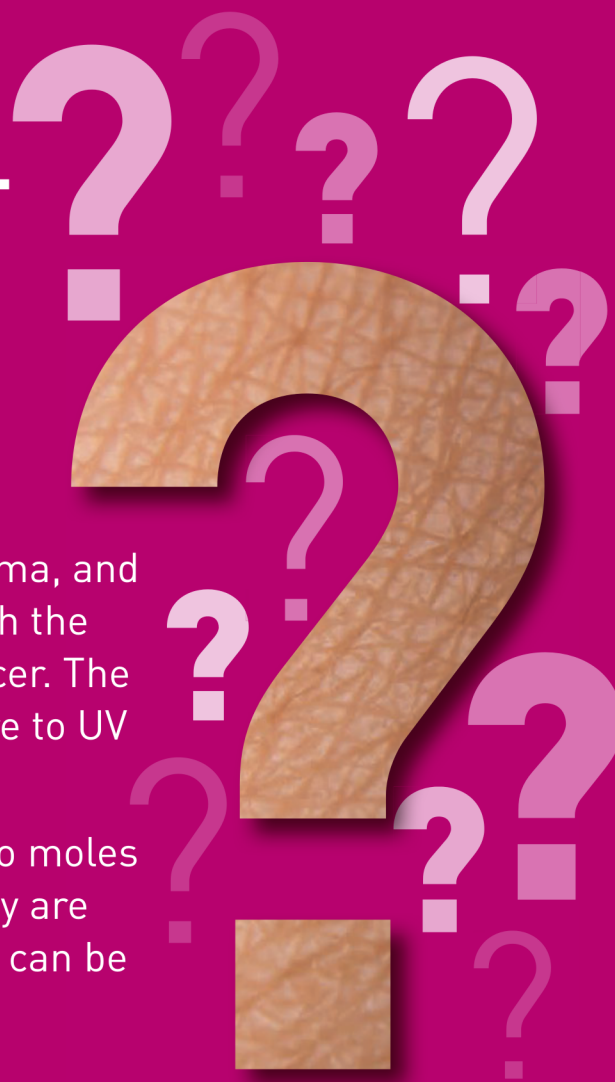


British Association of Dermatologists

KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT COMMON SKIN CANCERS

There are two main kinds of skin cancer: melanoma, and non-melanoma. This leaflet deals specifically with the more common, non-melanoma types of skin cancer. The biggest cause of skin cancer is too much exposure to UV light from the sun or sunbeds.

Non-melanoma skin cancers are not connected to moles and are less serious than melanoma because they are less likely spread to other parts of the body. Most can be effectively treated and cured if detected early.



The two most common types of non-melanoma skin cancer are called Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC), and Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC).

1

BASAL CELL CARCINOMA (BCC) is the most common type of skin cancer in the UK. It is very slow growing and very rarely, if ever, spreads to other parts of the body. Treatment becomes more complicated if a BCC has been neglected for a long time, or if it is in an awkward place such as near the eye, nose or ear. It is important to get a BCC treated early to stop it from growing back.

2

SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA (SCC) is the second most common type of skin cancer in the UK. It usually grows slowly, and is less likely than melanoma to spread to other parts of the body. However, it is more serious than a BCC because if left untreated there is a small risk (2-10%) that it can spread to other parts of the body, which could be fatal.


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