Based on national statistics, one in five people will get a form of skin cancer, the most common malignancy, in their lifetime. Melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer is diagnosed in 1 in 50 people every year. Recent statistics have shown that one American dies every hour of melanoma. Fortunately, most skin cancers, including melanoma, have an excellent cure rate if detected early. Use this card to learn the signs of skin cancer and make an appointment with one of our Dermatologists today for a skin exam.

Contact:
773.702.1611 or
WWW.UCHOSPITALS.EDU/DERMATOLOGY

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BCC is the most common type of skin cancer and least dangerous type. BCCs are usually found on sun-exposed areas of older fair-skinned adults. However, in recent years, it is being detected more frequently in younger patients. These carcinomas grow very slowly, both peripherally and in depth at their site of origin. Fortunately, these tumors have an extremely low likelihood of metastasizing. If left untreated, they will grow to exceedingly large sizes and may invade and destroy muscle, cartilage and bone. The true size of a BCC is very difficult to determine with the naked eye, since it grows beneath the skin surface. A microscopic analysis is usually necessary to delineate its true size.

SCC skin cancer arises from the top-most part of the skin and is typically precipitated by a lifetime of sun exposure. It may be brought out by immunosuppression, as is seen in solid-organ transplant patients or patients with certain leukemias. SCCs usually grow slowly but often more rapidly than BCCs, and therefore become more locally destructive. Luckily, less than 10% of SCCs metastasize to other sites in the body such as the lymph nodes.

Melanoma arises from cells that make pigment in the skin. If caught early, melanoma is highly treatable with surgery. Advanced melanoma carries a high risk of spreading to other areas of the body (metastasis).

There are other malignant skin tumors that can be treated by Mohs technique, such as dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans (DFSP), merkel cell carcinoma (MCC), etc. Our dermatologists will discuss various treatment options with you.