

FotoFinder Mole Mapping - A safe, non-invasive way of skin cancer prevention.

Why should I get mole mapping photos done?

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers worldwide. Melanoma, a form of cancer that begins in cells that make the pigment melanin, is one of the most dangerous cancer types and leads to thousands of deaths per year.

According to the National Cancer Institute, 'skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States and the number of new cases of melanoma has been increasing for at least 30 years. Melanoma is more likely to spread to nearby tissues and other parts of the body and can be harder to cure. Finding and treating melanoma skin cancer early may help prevent death from melanoma.'

The National Cancer Institute highly recommends regular mole checks by your physician.

The early detection of skin cancer delivers the best chances for survival. When melanoma is detected early by a physician the cure rate is over 95% because it can be excised before it starts spreading to other parts of the body.

The ability to detect new moles and changes in existing moles is critical in the early detection process. The American Cancer Society states that, 'Part of a routine cancer-related check up should include a skin exam by a health care professional qualified to diagnose skin cancer and many dermatologists use a technique called *dermatoscopy* (also known as *dermoscopy*, *epiluminescence microscopy [ELM]*, or *surface microscopy*) to look at spots on the skin more clearly.'

If you think about it, your physician likely sees thousands of moles per year on hundreds of patients, making it difficult to remember what your moles looked like six month ago. That is why having a photo documentation system for the accurate tracking of moles is so important.

What is FotoFinder?

FotoFinder is a computerized mole mapping system that your physician uses to create an accurate set of photos of your moles. The high resolution camera is connected to a computer and transfers all photos directly to the doctor's database, giving your doctor the ability to compare your moles with photos from your initial visit and immediately identify new moles or changes to existing moles on your body. An added benefit of FotoFinder is that your doctor can provide a copy of your photos on CD for self examination at home. All patients, whether first time or returning, can feel safe that any changes or new moles will not be missed.

Who should get mole mapping done?

If any of the following questions apply to you, have your moles checked by your physician:

- Do you have multiple moles (more than 50)?
- Is there a history of skin cancer in your family?
- Did you have already a melanoma?
- Do you have large moles (more than 2 inches in diameter)?
- Have you noticed any changes in your moles?
- Have you noticed any new moles on your body?
- Did you have severe, blistering sunburns during childhood or adolescence?
- Do you have very light skin?

How can suspicious moles be recognized?

Using the “ABCDE” rule can help you to recognize suspicious moles during self evaluation. Moles which show one or more of the signs below should be treated with utmost attention and observed by your physician!

A for Asymmetry

B for irregular, Blurred or jagged Borders

C for Color variation

D for Diameter larger than ¼ inch

E for Evolving, Any change — in size, shape, color, elevation, or another trait

Citations:

National Cancer Institute: PDQ® Skin Cancer Screening. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute. Date last modified <05/13/2013>. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/prevention/skin/Patient/page2>

American Cancer Society, Atlanta, GA: <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/skincancer-melanoma/detailedguide/melanoma-skin-cancer-detection>