



## Causes and Treatment of Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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### DESCRIPTION

Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin is a type of skin cancer that develops in the squamous cells that comprise the skin's middle and outer layers. Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin is rarely fatal, but it can be aggressive. Squamous cell carcinoma of the skin if left untreated can grow large and spread to other parts of the body causing serious complications. The majority of the squamous cell carcinomas on the skin are caused by prolonged exposure to Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, which can come from sunlight or tanning beds or lamps. Avoiding UV light to reduces the risk of squamous cell carcinoma and other types of skin cancer.

### CAUSES OF SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA

UV rays, such as those emitted by the sun or a tanning affect the cells in the middle and outer layers of the skin, causing them to proliferate and fail to die off as they should. This can result in enormous cell growth, which can lead to squamous cell carcinoma. Other factors, such as immune system disorders, can also contribute to this type of overgrowth. Squamous cells are the cells closest to the surface of skin and serve to line it. Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma is most commonly found in areas of the body that are frequently exposed to UV radiation, such as the face, hands, and ears. Basal cells are found beneath squamous cells and are constantly dividing to form new cells basal cell carcinoma accounts for approximately 80% of skin cancers. Melanocytes, like basal cells are found in the deepest layer of epidermis. These cells are in charge of generating melanin, the pigment that gives skin its color. Malignant melanoma is less

common than squamous cell and basal cell cancers, but it grows and spreads more rapidly if left untreated. Imaging examinations ACT scan or MRI will use imaging to determine the size of carcinoma beneath the skin and whether it has spread to other parts of the body, particularly in lymph nodes. Squamous cell carcinoma treatment focuses on removing cancer from the body through skin biopsy (removing a small sample of affected tissue to examine under a microscope) and cryosurgery (freezing the cancer cells to destroy them).

### TREATMENT METHODS

#### Photodynamic therapy

The use of blue light and light-sensitive agents to treat skin cancer. Curettage and electrodesiccation involved scraping the cancerous lump with a spoon-like instrument (curette) and then burning the area with an electric needle. Excision- removing the cancer from skin and stitching it back together.

#### Systemic chemotherapy

Using powerful medicines to destroy cancer cells in the body. Mohs surgery - removing layers of skin affected by cancer most common for facial cancers. During laser surgery, doctor will use a concentrated beam of light to remove the abnormal areas of the skin.

Topical medications used to treat other skin cancers, such as 5-fluorouracil and imiquimod may also help treatment of the cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma disease and it is critical to monitor skin for any precancerous or cancerous areas at least once per month.

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