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What is skin cancer?

Skin cancer is a malignant growth on the skin. The most common types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. The deadliest type of skin cancer is malignant melanoma. A rare form of skin cancer is known as Merckel's cell cancer. Many types of skin cancer are due to sun damage.

Internal cancers can sometimes appear on the skin. These tumors spread to the skin from internal organs such as lung, breast, ovary, stomach or kidney. Another type of internal cancer called lymphoma can also appear on the skin. A skin biopsy can sometimes be the first indication that a person has a cancer, so all new growths on the skin should be checked by your dermatologist.

How is it treated?

Skin cancer is removed surgically, usually in the dermatologist's office under local anesthesia. See Skin Cancer Surgery or Mohs surgery. Premature aging should also be addressed to prevent additional skin cancer from occurring.

