



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Types of Skin Cancer

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. The two most common types of skin cancer—**basal cell** and **squamous cell carcinomas**—are highly curable, but can be disfiguring and costly to treat. **Melanoma**, the third most common skin cancer, is more dangerous and causes the most deaths. The majority of skin cancer is caused by **overexposure** to **ultraviolet (UV) light**.

Basal cell carcinoma begins in the **basal cell layer** of the skin. Squamous cell carcinoma begins in the **squamous layer**. **Melanoma** begins in the **melanocytes**, which are the cells that make **melanin**, the pigment that gives skin its color. Changes in skin color or texture, and skin growths, should be checked by a medical professional.



PREVIEW

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Easy options to avoid overexposure to UV radiation—

- Stay in the **shade**, especially during midday hours.
- Wear clothing that **covers** your arms and legs.
- Wear a **hat** with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears and neck.
- Wear **sunglasses** that block both UVA and UVB rays.
- Use **sunscreen** with a sun protection factor (SPF) of **15 or higher**.
- **Avoid** indoor tanning.





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Types of Skin Cancer

| Basal Cell Carcinoma | Squamous Cell Carcinoma | Melanoma |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

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