

# Understanding Basal Cell Carcinoma

Basal cell carcinoma is the most predominant type of skin cancer and the most frequently encountered form of all cancers.

## 1 Introduction

Basal cell carcinoma (BCG) is a skin cancer that starts from basal cells, which are responsible for generating new skin cells. This type of carcinoma usually appears as a translucent lump on sun-exposed areas like the head and neck. Long-term exposure to ultraviolet radiation is one of the main causes of basal cell carcinoma.

## 2 Symptoms

Basal cell carcinoma usually occurs in sun-exposed areas and can cause skin lesions. Some of the more common types of skin lesions include:

- A shiny, skin-colored bump that's translucent. The bump may bleed and scab over.
- A brown, black or blue lesion
- A flat, scaly patch with a raised edge
- A white, waxy, scar-like lesion without a clear border

## 3 Diagnosis

A dermatologist will conduct a medical history and exam to assess any growth or changes in the patient's skin. After performing a skin exam, a medical professional may do a skin biopsy to reveal whether it is skin cancer and, if so, which type.

## 4 Treatments

There are different treatments for BCG depending on the location and size of the cancer. Another factor is whether it is a first-time diagnosis or a recurring basal cell carcinoma. Surgery is one of the most common treatments, including surgical excisions and Mohs surgery. Other possible treatments are Curettage and electrodesiccation (C and E), radiation therapy, freezing cancer cells, topical treatments or photodynamic therapy. To treat a cancer that has spread, on rare occasions, doctors may suggest targeted drug therapy or chemotherapy.

---

### Did you know?

Approximately 3.6 million people are diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma in the US each year.

For more information on basal cell carcinoma and supportive resources, please visit [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)

---

### References:

<https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/basal-cell-carcinoma/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/basal-cell-carcinoma/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20354193>