



What is a Skin Cancer Screening?

What happens at a skin cancer screening?

A skin cancer screening is a visual inspection of your skin by a medical professional of your moles, freckles and other marks. There is no need to take blood, and nothing will be cut or removed at the time of the screening. Screenings generally take only 15 minutes.

Do I have to pay for the skin cancer screening?

No, no need for insurance or any type of payment – these skin cancer screenings are provided free of charge by volunteer dermatologic surgeons and are a part of the Choose Skin Health program, a public service partnership between the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) and Neutrogena.

Where will they look on my body for skin cancer?

At a screening in a doctor's office, you will most likely need to undress for the screening so that your entire body can be carefully checked. If the screening is at a public event, the doctor will do a visual inspection of exposed skin areas such as face, head, arms, hands, legs and feet.

Who will check my skin for skin cancer?

A dermatologic surgeon will provide the skin cancer screening.

What is a dermatologic surgeon?

Dermatologic surgeons are dermatologists who have unique qualifications and experience in the use of a wide variety of surgical and non-surgical methods of treating the skin and preventing skin problems.

Do I have to complete a form to get a screening?

Yes – but personal information is protected and not sent to the ASDS, which gathers valuable skin cancer statistics. There is information on HIPAA rights, and your signature is required to demonstrate your acknowledgement of these rights.

While I am being screened for skin cancer, can I ask other questions I have about my skin, such as cosmetic procedures, acne or a funny rash?

No, the purpose of this program is to screen for skin cancer only and raise the awareness about this deadly disease. However, we do encourage you to seek the advice of a dermatologic surgeon in your area for other concerns.

What if the doctor finds skin cancer or something suspicious?

If you have a suspicious lesion, the doctor will explain to you that a follow-up examination is imperative and is your responsibility – you will need to arrange for a follow-up examination with a dermatologic surgeon of your choice. Any follow-up examination or treatment that you may receive is not sponsored, endorsed or guaranteed by the ASDS. You can locate a dermatologic surgeon through asds.net. If you do not have insurance, you can look for a free health clinic in your area.