

# ADVANCED NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER TREATMENT DECISIONS: WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?

Program Resource Guide



## What Is Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer?

### Main Types of Skin Cancer

- Basal cell carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Merkel cell cancer
- Squamous cell carcinoma

### Skin Cancer Resources

- [American Academy of Dermatology](#)
- [Cancer Support Community](#)
- [Skin Cancer Foundation](#)
- [Skin Cancer Education & Research Foundation \(SCERF\)](#)

### Advanced Skin Cancer Staging Considerations Include:

- The size of the tumor and whether it has spread deeply into the tissue.
- Whether the cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes (stage III).
- If the cancer has spread beyond the lymph nodes to distant parts of the body (stage IV).

### Current Treatment Approaches:

- Surgery
- Radiation
- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Targeted Therapy

### Treatment Considerations Include:

- A patient's age and overall health.
- Existing medical conditions and comorbidities.
- Potential treatment side effects.
- A patient's preference.

## Glossary Terms

**Basal Cell Carcinoma:** A skin cancer that forms in the outer layer of the skin. It is the most common form of skin cancer and rarely spreads to other parts of the body.

**Hedgehog Inhibitors:** Drugs that target a protein in the hedgehog pathway.

**Immunotherapy:** Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

**Lymph Nodes:** Small glands in the body that contain white blood cells (lymphocytes) that help fight infection and disease.

**Melanoma:** A rare form of skin cancer that develops in the melanocytes, which are skin cells that produce pigment. It is curable if detected early.

**Squamous Cell Carcinoma:** A skin cancer that forms in squamous cells, which are cells that form the surface of the skin. It is highly treatable but more likely to spread than basal cell carcinoma.

**Targeted Therapy:** Targets the cancer's specific genes, proteins, or tissue.

### MORE TOOLS FOR EMPOWERMENT

- Digitally Empowered™
- PEN-Powered Activity Guide
- Empowered Blog
- Empowered! Podcast



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