

THE PRO-ACTIVE ADVANCED NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER PATIENT TOOLKIT

Resource Guide



Engage In Your Care

- Continue to educate yourself about your condition.
- Understand the goals of treatment and share your personal preferences with your doctor.
- Consider a second opinion with a specialist following a diagnosis to confirm your treatment approach.
- Write down your questions before and during your appointments. Bring loved ones to your appointments to help you recall information and to keep track of important details.
- Ask your doctor whether a clinical trial might be right for you.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions and to share your concerns. You are your own best advocate.

Multidisciplinary Skin Cancer Team Members

- Dermatologist
- Surgeon or surgical oncologist
- Dermatopathologist
- Medical oncologist
- Radiation oncologist
- Palliative and supportive care specialists
- Social worker
- Nurse navigator

Treatment Considerations May Include:

- The location and size of the cancer.
- Test results, including genetic test results.
- Potential treatment side effects.
- Overall health of the patient.
- Patient 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.

Merkel Cell Carcinoma: A rare, aggressive cancer that forms on the upper layer of the skin. It is most common in people with weakened immune systems and/or older adults.

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: A type of personalized medicine that works by blocking specific mutations and by preventing cancer cells from growing and dividing, without affecting normal cells.

Skin Cancer Resources

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



The Pro-Active Advanced Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Toolkit is brought to you by the Patient Empowerment Network. Funding is provided by an unrestricted educational grant from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Sanofi.



question@powerfulpatients.org

www.powerfulpatients.org



[@power4patients](https://twitter.com/power4patients)