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)

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