

Patient information from BMJ

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Squamous cell skin cancer: questions to ask your doctor

If you're worried about a crusted lump or a flaky spot or patch on your skin, you should see your doctor. Here are some questions you might want to ask.

If you are concerned you have skin cancer

- Do I have cancer or is the spot or patch on my skin harmless?
- How can you tell what it is?
- Will I need surgery to check whether it's cancer, and will I need to have all of it removed?
- Will I need any other tests?
- If so, what kinds of tests will I need?

If you have squamous cell skin cancer

- What stage is my cancer?
- Which treatment is best for me?
- Will the treatment leave a scar? Will it have other side effects?
- Are people in my family at higher risk of getting this type of cancer?
- Will my cancer come back?
- What can I do to protect myself from skin cancer?

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