

Patient information from BMJ

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Melanoma: questions to ask your doctor

If you're worried that one of your moles may be skin cancer, you should see your doctor as soon as you can.

Here are some questions you might want to ask:

- Could my mole be a melanoma?
- Will I have surgery to remove part of the mole to check whether it is cancer or will I need to have all of it removed?
- How advanced is my cancer (if you have melanoma)? What stage is it?
- What treatment do you recommend?
- What are the risks of treatment?
- Do people in my family have a raised risk of getting melanoma?
- What can I do to protect myself from another melanoma?
- What do you think is likely to happen to me?

And here are some questions your doctor may ask you:

- Has anyone in your family ever had a melanoma?
- Have you ever had any type of skin cancer?
- Did you have bad sunburns when you were a child?
- Have any of your moles changed their color, shape, size, or texture?

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