

# Patient information from BMJ

Last published: Apr 19, 2021

## 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 sunburn when you were a child?
- Have any of your moles changed their colour, shape, size, or texture?

The patient information from *BMJ Best Practice* from which this leaflet is derived is regularly updated. The most recent version of Best Practice can be found at [bestpractice.bmj.com](https://bestpractice.bmj.com). This information is intended for use by health professionals. It is not a substitute for medical advice. It is strongly recommended that you independently verify any interpretation of this material and, if you have a medical problem, see your doctor.

Please see BMJ's full terms of use at: [bmj.com/company/legal-information](https://bmj.com/company/legal-information). BMJ does not make any representations, conditions, warranties or guarantees, whether express or implied, that this material is accurate, complete, up-to-date or fit for any particular purposes.

© BMJ Publishing Group Ltd 2021. All rights reserved.

# Melanoma: questions to ask your doctor

