

## Mole Mapping

Mole mapping uses photos to track changes in your skin over time. Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. If found early, it can be treated. Regular skin checks can help you track any changes in your skin. Mole mapping uses pictures to track changes in your skin over time.

Mole mapping helps dermatologists find melanoma and other types of skin cancer early. Pictures are taken once. When you come for visits later, your doctor compares your moles to the photographs. The photos make it easy to see skin changes that might be melanoma.

### Who Can Mole Mapping Help?

Mole mapping can help people who have a higher risk of getting melanoma. You may have a higher risk if any of these apply to you:

- You have many moles.
- You have moles that look different from others on your body:
  - Irregular shape
  - More than one color
  - Raised areas
  - You have had melanoma.
  - Melanoma runs in your family.

### Pros and Cons to Mole Mapping

#### PROS:

- Original photos help find any changes that might be of concern.
- Your dermatologist can see changes of concern, and remove them early. This helps lower the risk of surgery and melanoma.
- If new changes that are not harmful are found, new photos are taken to help track any future changes.
- By taking pictures, we see if areas that were of concern are changing. This helps us know if the changes are likely to be melanoma.
- Patients and providers can have reassurance about areas of concern.

#### CONS:

- Melanoma can still go undetected in areas like the scalp and genitals that are difficult to photograph.
- Early melanoma can look like a normal mole, or other non-cancerous changes, making it possible to miss.