# Screening for Skin Cancer

## Clinical Summary of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Adult General Population¹</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“I” Statement:</strong> Insufficient Evidence</td>
<td>No recommendation due to insufficient evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Risk Assessment

- Skin cancer risks: family history of skin cancer, considerable history of sun exposure and sunburn
  - Groups at increased risk for melanoma:
    - fair-skinned men and women over the age of 65 years
    - patients with atypical moles
    - patients with more than 50 moles

### Screening Tests

- There is insufficient evidence to assess the balance of benefits and harms of whole body skin examination by a clinician or patient skin self-examination for the early detection of skin cancer.

### Screening Intervals

- Not applicable.

### Suggestions for Practice

- Clinicians should remain alert for skin lesions with malignant features that are noted while performing physical examinations for other purposes. Features associated with increased risk for malignancy include: asymmetry, border irregularity, color variability, diameter >6mm (“A,” “B,” “C,” “D”), or rapidly changing lesions. Suspicious lesions should be biopsied.

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¹ Note: The USPSTF does not examine outcomes related to surveillance of patients with familial syndromes, such as familial atypical mole and melanoma (FAM-M) syndrome.

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents please go to [http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov](http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov).

The USPSTF has reviewed the evidence for counseling to prevent skin cancer. The recommendation statement and supporting documents can be accessed at [http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov](http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov).

The U.S. Task Force on Community Preventive Services has reviewed the evidence on interventions to reduce skin cancer. The recommendations can be accessed at [http://www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org).