



## What exactly is Squamous Cell Carcinoma?

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is an uncontrolled growth of abnormal cells arising in the skin's upper layer known as the epidermis. It often appears as scaly red patches, a sore that won't heal, an elevated growth with a depression in the middle, or it may even look like a wart. These lesions may crust or bleed. They can cause disfigurement or be fatal if they are left untreated. It is the second most commonly diagnosed form of skin cancer. An estimated 700,000 cases of SCC are diagnosed each year in the U.S., and between 3,900 and 8,800 people died from the disease in the US in 2012. Incidence of the disease has increased up to 200 percent in the past three decades in the U.S., according to the Skin Cancer Foundation.

The main cause for SCC is exposure to ultraviolet rays. Ultraviolet rays can come from the sun or from indoor tanning beds. More than 419,000 cases of skin cancer in the US each year are linked to indoor tanning, including about 168,000 squamous cell carcinomas. One indoor UV tanning session increases a users' risk of developing squamous cell carcinoma by 67%.

SCC can occur anywhere on the body, but is more prevalent on sun-exposed sites such as the ears, lips, face, scalp, neck, hands, arms and legs. The best way to prevent SCC is to be diligent in protecting your skin from the sun. That means wearing your sunscreen 365 days a year with an SPF rating of at least 30 and selecting a sunscreen with at least one of the following ingredients: titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, Parsol 1789, or Meroxyl.

If you or someone you know has or is concerned about SCC, give our office a call today. Dr. Moore is a skin cancer specialist and you will find the most innovative and advanced treatment options available right here at DermacenterMD. Call our office today at **574-522-0265** to schedule your appointment.

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