



May is Melanoma Awareness Month

Take care of your skin, it's yours for life

How is Malignant Melanoma Treated?

All suspected malignant melanomas of the skin are treated with surgery, which involves removing the complete tumour with an area of surrounding skin. This may be all the treatment required. Following removal and examination of the tumour, a wider excision or skin graft may be required. Skin graft procedures involve a hospital admission for a few days to allow rest and promote wound healing. Fortunately, this is becoming less necessary and most malignant melanomas are treated on an outpatient basis.

Treatment for later stage Malignant Melanoma

Other forms of treatment for later stage malignant melanoma include further surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and/or bio-immunotherapy. Research into vaccines and gene therapy is constantly developing newer and more effective treatments for malignant melanoma.

Follow-up Care

Regular check-ups are usually offered to patients who have developed malignant melanoma. These are arranged to detect any recurrence of malignant melanoma and to advise on further treatment. Initially, these check-ups may be frequent (every 3-4 months) then gradually reduced to annual visits.

If in Doubt - Check it out! See Your G.P.

Malignant melanoma remains the rarest form of skin cancer, but it is the most serious. Malignant melanoma is curable if treated early. Scan your skin; involve your family and people close to you.

Photographs of malignant melanoma (skin cancer)

