

# How to find skin cancer early



**1 in 5**  
Americans will  
develop skin  
cancer by the age  
of 70<sup>1</sup>

To catch it as early as possible—at its most treatable stage, do the **ABCDE** check on suspicious skin lesion monthly and consult a doctor if the mole has<sup>2</sup>:



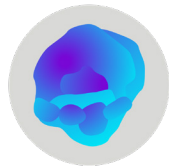
## **(A) SYMMETRY**

Two halves that don't match



## **(B) BORDER**

An uneven border



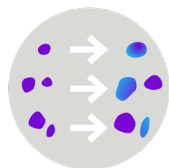
## **(C) COLOR**

Multiple shades of tan, brown, or black; or unusual colors such as red, purple, or blue



## **(D) DIAMETER**

A diameter longer than 6 mm (about the size of a pencil eraser)



## **(E) EVOLUTION**

A different size, shape, or color over time



### References

- 1 Stern RS. Prevalence of a history of skin cancer in 2007: results of an incidence-based model. Arch Dermatol. Mar 2010;146(3):279-82. doi:10.1001/archdermatol.2010.4 or <https://www.aad.org/media/stats-skin-cancer>
- 2 Abbasi NR, Shaw HM, Rigel DS, et al. Early diagnosis of cutaneous melanoma: revisiting the ABCD criteria. JAMA 2004;292:2771.

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