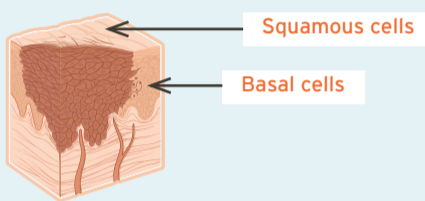


## Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Across Skin Tones

Non-melanoma skin cancers are among the **most common types of cancer in the U.S.** - with an estimated 5.4 million cases diagnosed among 3.3 million people annually.<sup>1</sup> However, there is a concerning myth that the disease only impacts those with light-colored skin, leading to gaps in diagnosis, care and treatment for people of color.

## Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Incidence

Non-melanoma skin cancers (NMSC) are a type of skin cancer usually involving the top layer of the skin (epidermis). Two of the most common types are **basal cell carcinoma (BCC)** and **squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC)** based on the types of cells invaded.



**CSCC** is the most common type of skin cancer in **people of Black and South Asian descent.**<sup>2,3</sup>



**BCC** is the most common type of skin cancer in **people of Caucasian, Hispanic, and East Asian descent.**<sup>2,3</sup>

## Racial Disparities

- People of color often present with more advanced disease compared to White people, leading to worse prognosis and outcomes.<sup>4</sup>
- A major contributing factor to delayed diagnosis and treatment among racial minorities is that CSCC and BCC can vary in appearance and develop in different areas of the body in people of color.<sup>5</sup>
- This delay can also be attributed to low public awareness about the risk of skin cancer in people of color and a lower index of suspicion among their doctors.<sup>5</sup>

### CSCC

- While CSCC usually appears in sun-exposed areas in light-skinned people, chronic scarring processes are one of the risk factors for CSCC in people of color, who are **over 8x more likely to have CSCC in areas that get less sun exposure**, such as the lower extremities and anogenital region.<sup>3,6</sup>
- CSCC lesions tend to present as crusted, red bumps or non-healing sores. These lesions may be darkly pigmented in skin of color.<sup>2,5,6</sup>

### BCC

- BCC lesions tend to present as open sores that don't heal or that heal and come back, or pink or red pearly bumps or growths that may have raised edges and blue, brown, or black areas. These lesions may be darkly pigmented in people of color.<sup>7</sup>

## Screening & Care Disparities

- **Many people of color are less likely to see a dermatologist** due to a variety of factors. One factor is that they may believe they are not susceptible to get skin cancer, and are therefore less likely to perform self-examinations, especially in sun-protected areas. It's important to remember that people of all skin tones can be diagnosed with non-melanoma skin cancer.<sup>8</sup>
- **Remember to conduct regular at-home full-body skin exams and talk to a doctor** if you see any new, changing or unusual marks or spots on your skin.



Visit [LetsGetRealAboutSkinCancer.com](https://www.LetsGetRealAboutSkinCancer.com) to learn more about non-melanoma skin cancer and to take a pledge to see a dermatologist for a skin check.

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