

Facts you should know about melanoma

Melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer and can be deadly^{1,2}

It develops when unrepaired DNA damage to skin cells triggers mutations that cause them to rapidly multiply and form malignant tumors²

Melanoma can spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body²

Although it can affect any organ, melanoma often metastasizes to²:



Brain



Lungs



Liver



Bones

Abnormal gene changes (mutations) often play a role in melanoma growth and disease progression²



For people with metastatic melanoma, a **biomarker test** can determine whether their tumor has a

BRAF mutation²



About **half** of melanomas have **BRAF mutations²**



In metastatic melanoma, **V600E and V600K** together account for about **95%** of all BRAF mutations³



About 200,000 melanoma cases are diagnosed worldwide each year⁴

The World Health Organization estimates that **55,000** people die from melanoma annually⁴

In the U.S., the number of melanoma cases has more than **doubled** in the past 30 years⁵

Every hour, about **6 people** die from melanoma worldwide⁴

Age and skin type can affect a person's risk of melanoma²

Melanoma is **20 times** more common in Caucasians than African Americans⁶



However, excessive exposure to intense sunlight can **damage all skin types²**

Advanced melanoma is difficult to treat²



Melanoma is almost always **treatable** when caught early²
If the disease metastasizes, it becomes **hard to cure** and can be fatal²



Medicines that target **specific disease characteristics** have shown promise in the treatment of metastatic melanoma²

1. A Snapshot of Melanoma. National Cancer Institute. Available at: <http://www.cancer.gov/research/progress/snapshots/melanoma>. Accessed October 1, 2015. 2. Melanoma Skin Cancer. American Cancer Society. Available at: <http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/cid/documents/webcontent/003120-pdf.pdf>. Accessed October 1, 2015. 3. Klein, O., Clements, A., Menzies, A. M., O'Toole, S., Kefford, R. F., & Long, G. V. (2013). BRAF inhibitor activity in V600R metastatic melanoma. *European Journal of Cancer*, 49(5), 1073-1079. 4. GLOBOCAN 2012: estimated cancer incidence, mortality and prevalence worldwide in 2012. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available at: <http://globocan.iarc.fr/>. Accessed October 1, 2015. 5. SEER Stat Fact Sheets: Melanoma of the Skin. National Cancer Institute. Available at: <http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/melan.html>. Accessed October 2014. 6. What are the key statistics about melanoma skin cancer? American Cancer Society. <http://www.cancer.org/cancer/skincancer-melanoma/detailedguide/melanoma-skin-cancer-key-statistics>. Last revised on March 20, 2015. Accessed on April 17, 2015.