

Basal Cell Carcinoma

Complete discussion guide

A printable set of questions to bring to appointments with your care team. Each section below is also available as its own one-page checklist.

Sections

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<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma>



What Does It Mean If My Biopsy Says "Basal Cell Carcinoma"?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/biopsy-meaning>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

When you review your biopsy results, consider asking:

☐ What type of basal cell carcinoma do I have?

☐ Were the biopsy margins clear or involved?

☐ Will I need Mohs surgery or a standard excision?

☐ What are my chances of recurrence?

☐ How often should I have full-body skin checks going forward?



How Do Doctors Decide Which Type of BCC I Have (Superficial, Nodular, Morpheaform)?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/types>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

☐ What subtype of basal cell carcinoma do I have?

☐ How deep or aggressive is my tumor?

☐ Is Mohs surgery recommended, or can this be treated another way?

☐ What are my chances of recurrence?

☐ How often should I have skin checks after treatment?



What Are the Treatment Options for Basal Cell Carcinoma?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/treatment-options>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

☐ Given my tumor's size, location, and subtype, which treatment do you recommend and why?

☐ What is the expected cure rate for this approach in my specific case?

☐ What will recovery and scarring look like?

☐ Am I a candidate for a non-surgical option?

☐ How will we confirm the BCC is completely gone after treatment?



What Should I Expect During Recovery After BCC Surgery?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/recovery-after-surgery>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

- ☐ Exactly when can I remove the initial bandage, and how should I clean the wound after that?

- ☐ Which activities do I need to avoid, and for how long?

- ☐ When are my stitches scheduled to come out?

- ☐ What level of redness, swelling, or drainage is normal versus concerning for my specific repair?

- ☐ What can I do to minimize scarring once the wound has closed?



Can Basal Cell Carcinoma Come Back After Treatment — And How Do I Prevent It?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/recurrence-prevention>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

☐ Based on how my BCC was treated, what's my personal recurrence risk?

☐ How often should I come in for a full-body skin exam going forward?

☐ What should a recurrence at the treatment site actually look like?

☐ Am I a candidate for nicotinamide or other chemoprevention?

☐ Are there sunscreen or sun-protection habits specific to my skin type and lifestyle I should adopt?



What Is the Risk of BCC Spreading or Becoming Serious?

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<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/spread-and-seriousness>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

- ☐ Does my BCC have any of the high-risk features, like size, location, or subtype?

- ☐ Is there any sign of deeper growth into nerve, cartilage, or bone?

- ☐ Based on my risk category, why is this particular treatment being recommended over others?

- ☐ How closely will I need to be monitored given my tumor's risk level?

- ☐ What symptoms — numbness, persistent pain, rapid growth — should prompt me to call sooner than my next scheduled visit?



How Do I Check My Skin for Basal Cell Carcinoma — and When Should I See a Doctor?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/self-exam-when-to-see-doctor>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

- ☐ Is this spot something you'd want to biopsy, or is it safe to just keep watching?

- ☐ Given my skin type and history, how often should I be getting a professional skin check?

- ☐ Are there areas of my body I should be paying closer attention to during self-exams?

- ☐ Can you show me what to look for so I know what "changed" actually looks like for this spot?

- ☐ If I've had a BCC before, does that change how often I should self-exam or get checked?



What Lifestyle or Skin-Care Habits Help Reduce the Chance of Another Basal Cell Carcinoma?

Basal Cell Carcinoma

<https://www.beatingskincancer.com/basal-cell-carcinoma/lifestyle-prevention>

Appointment date

Doctor's name

- ☐ Given my skin type and history, is a mineral or chemical sunscreen better suited to me?

- ☐ Are any of my current medications increasing my sun sensitivity?

- ☐ Are there specific areas of my skin I tend to under-protect based on where my prior BCC was?

- ☐ Is my current sun-protection routine adequate, or are there gaps worth closing?

- ☐ At what point does daily sun protection stop mattering as much — is there ever a point I can ease up?
