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Melanoma Fact Sheet

- q Melanoma is the most serious and lethal form of skin cancer:
 - Mortality rate has increased by 44% since 1973.
 - Melanoma accounts for 79% of all skin cancer deaths.
 - One person dies every hour from Melanoma in the U.S.
 - There were 10,250 deaths from skin cancer last year of which 7,910 were from melanoma.
 - Melanoma spreads to other places on the skin and to lymph nodes, lungs, liver, brain and bones.
 - Melanoma is second only to adult leukemia in terms of the loss of years of potential life.

- q The lifetime risk of developing melanoma is 1 in 39:
 - 480,000 U.S. citizens are estimated to currently have melanoma.
 - 40-50% of Americans who live to age 65 will experience skin cancer.
 - People with a family history of melanoma have a higher risk of developing the disease.
 - People having over 50 moles are at higher risk of developing melanoma.
 - Childhood sunburn is a major risk factor - just one or two blistering sunburns doubles the chance of experiencing melanoma later in life.
 - Melanoma affects people of all ages and genders - the median age for contracting melanoma is 45-55.
 - Lighter skinned people are at a higher risk, but persons of all races and ethnic backgrounds, are susceptible.

- q The incidence of melanoma has increased by 150% since 1973:
 - Melanoma is the most rapidly increasing form of cancer - more than doubling in the last 25 years.
 - New melanoma cases increased by 4% in 2003 over 2002.
 - 55,000 new cases are expected in 2004 for the U.S.
 - In Maryland, Melanoma is expected to rise 23% in 2004 – an estimated 980 new cases.
 - Melanoma is the ninth most common malignancy.
 - For women:
 - The incidence rate of melanoma is higher than any other cancer except lung cancer.
 - Melanoma is the most common cancer for ages 25-29 and the second most common for ages 30-34.
 - For men:
 - The incidence rate of melanoma is greater than any other cancer.

- q Melanoma receives only 10% of the funding provided to other cancer research!

Learn more at www.melanomaresource.org
