

# Finding Advanced, Compassionate Care for Skin Cancer

## The Atlantic Melanoma Center

**A**symmetry, border irregularity, uneven color, diameter over six millimeters... These are what doctors call the “ABCD’s” of melanoma, warning signs that your mole may be more than a beauty mark. And it’s easy for patients to remember this too.

The most serious form of skin cancer, melanoma, is characterized by the uncontrollable growth of pigment-producing cells. It is responsible for approximately three-quarters of all skin cancer-related deaths and claims almost 8,000 American lives each year. In its most serious form, the disease can even spread, or metastasize, to the internal organs.

The good news, however, is that melanoma can be treated quite successfully when found early — which is why knowing your melanoma “ABCD’s” is so important.

“To achieve the best treatment outcome possible, melanoma must be detected when it is relatively thin and contained to the surface layers of the skin,” notes Eric Whitman, M.D., surgical oncologist and director of the Atlantic Melanoma Center. “The longer

melanoma is left untreated, the greater the risk that the disease has grown deeper, and become more aggressive.”

One of the most experienced melanoma surgeons in the country, Dr. Whitman has dedicated his career to the study and treatment of melanoma skin cancer. Not only does he perform over 300 melanoma surgeries each year, but he is also an active participant in some of the most important scientific research currently being done to advance patient care as well as the clinical understanding of the disease.

“Right now, we are looking at some very exciting new treatments, especially in the area of metastatic melanoma,” says Dr. Whitman. “For patients, this is vitally important because there is still no standard, effective, treatment for metastatic melanoma. By providing access to experimental chemotherapy, gene therapy, immunotherapy and tumor vaccines through clinical trials, we give our patients a chance to receive the most innovative treatments available today. For example, a number of patients at the Atlantic Melanoma Center have taken part in promising trials of drugs that work in tandem with standard chemotherapy to enhance the outcome.

### Combining Skill and Personal Warmth

Providing university-level care in a friendly, community setting, the Atlantic Melanoma Center is known for its helpful staff, comfortable surroundings, and medical talent.

“As a part of Atlantic Health and the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, we can provide state-of-the-art cancer treatment technologies and leading-edge clinical trials on site, but in an environment that is more like a physician’s private practice than in an institutional setting,” Dr. Whitman says.

“What’s more, we take personalized patient care very seriously. Melanoma is one of the most dangerous forms of cancer and being diagnosed with melanoma and sent to a specialist for treatment can be extremely



Eric Whitman, M.D.

frightening. From the moment a patient walks through the door, we strive to make the entire treatment process as easy and stress free as possible. We want each patient and their family to know that we are doing everything possible to both cure their melanoma, and to help them through this difficult period of their lives.”

*To learn more about the Atlantic Melanoma Center, or to schedule a consultation, please call 973-971-7111. Visit our website at [atlantichealth.org](http://atlantichealth.org)*

### A for Asymmetry

One half is different than the other half.

### B for Border Irregularity

The edges are notched, uneven or blurred.

### C for Color

The color is uneven. Shades of brown, tan, and black are present.

### D for Diameter

Diameter is greater than 6 millimeters.

**Carol G. Simon  
Cancer Center**

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