Recognising skin cancer
First steps – diagnosis to treatment

World class cancer care delivered locally
Canopy Cancer Care is a leading private clinic for adult cancer patients. Our team specialises in the care of patients requiring cancer treatment. The Canopy vision is to offer New Zealanders the option of world class cancer care, delivered locally. Every day and with every patient we work towards this goal.

The Canopy team has been providing an international standard of care for over eight years. During this time we have built a strong team who are all passionate about our patients and the outcomes that matter to them most.

We have world class facilities located in

- Epsom, Auckland
- Takapuna, Auckland
- Tauranga, Bay of Plenty
- and now also in Whangarei, Northland

An online news channel for the cancer community

Canopy TV aims to provide interesting and topical information to cancer patients and their families, increase people’s understanding of cancer and showcase interesting clinical developments in cancer treatment.

www.canopycancercare.co.nz/canopytv

A toolkit of evidence based complementary therapies

Under the Canopy gives patients access to relevant non-medical services as they need them either during or after chemotherapy or other oncology treatments.

Services include physio, oncology massage, diet and nutrition advice and exercise support.

www.canopycancercare.co.nz/underthecanopy
What is skin cancer?

Skin cancer is the uncontrolled growth of abnormal skin cells. It occurs when unrepaired DNA damage to skin cells triggers mutations, or genetic defects, that lead the skin cells to multiply rapidly and form malignant tumours.

Classification of skin cancer

Skin cancer is categorised as melanoma or non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC). The three most common skin cancers are:

- **Melanoma** – the most serious form of skin cancer, causing over two thirds of total skin cancer deaths.
- **Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)** – easily treated if found early but can be fatal if left untreated.
- **Basal cell carcinoma (BCC)** – the most common and least dangerous skin cancer. BCC can be serious, requiring surgery if left untreated.

Incidence in New Zealand

The total number of new melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) cases contributes around 80 percent of all new cancers each year.

There are approximately 67,000 new NMSC cases each year. However, providing an exact figure for the number of NMSC is difficult as, unlike melanoma, they are not required to be recorded.

New Zealand’s skin cancer rates are among the highest in the world. Our high skin cancer rates are due to:

- high levels of UV radiation in New Zealand during daylight savings months;
- low ozone levels over New Zealand;
- our outdoor lifestyle and tendency to ‘seek the sun’; and,
- a high proportion of people with fair skin.

Causes of skin cancer

The most common cause of skin cancer is too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Overexposure to UV radiation causes the skin permanent damage.

People of all ages and skin colours can be diagnosed with skin cancer but those at a higher risk are people who have:

- fair skin and red or fair hair
- fair skin that burns easily no matter what hair colour
- had one or more severe sunburns – especially in childhood and adolescence
- used sunbeds, particularly at a young age
- had previous skin cancers
- a family history of melanoma (parent, brother, sister or child)
- large, irregularly shaped and unevenly coloured moles
- a large number of moles
Signs and symptoms of skin cancer

Speak to your health professional if you have a mole, freckle or spot that: is new or changing, that looks different from others around it, does not heal or has changed in size, thickness, shape, colour or has started to bleed.
Finding skin cancer as early as possible is the key to successful treatment.

Canopy Cancer Care skin tumour team

The Canopy Skin Cancer Team is made up of world class Medical Oncologists Dr Mike McCrystal in Auckland with colleagues Lisa Dawson in Whangarei and Elliott Brenman and Richard North in Tauranga.

They have extensive experience of skin cancers in the fields of research, education and patient care. The Specialist Skin Cancer Nurse is Karen Nolan who brings extensive experience to the role. If you have an adult or young adult patient with skin cancer, please contact Canopy Cancer Care with a referral to the Skin Cancer Team.

Our team specialises in the care of patients requiring cancer treatment with chemotherapy, immunotherapy, antibody therapy, hormone therapy and more targeted therapies.

Meet the Canopy skin team

Oncologists

Dr Mike McCrystal
MD, FRACP
Specialties: Breast, Skin/Melanoma

Dr Lisa Dawson
BSc, MBBS, FRACP
Specialties: Gastro-Intestinal (GI), Breast and Melanoma

Dr Elliott Brenman
BMedSci, BMBS, MRCP (UK), FRACP
Specialties: Genitourinary, Gynaecological, Lung, Melanoma

Dr Richard North
BHB, MBChB, FRACP
Specialties: Genitourinary, Gastro-Intestinal (GI), Head & Neck, Lung, Lymphoma, Melanoma

Specialist nurse

Karen Nolan
Specialist Skin Nurse

Administration support

Dale Tappin
Scheduler – Auckland and Whangarei

Justine Nathan
Scheduler – Tauranga
Why choose Canopy?

**Quick appointment times**
- our target is to have our patients seen by a Specialist within 7 days.

**The highest professional standards**
- comes from selecting only highly experienced and dedicated Specialists, nurses and support staff.

**Personalised treatment plans**
- by professionals committed to delivering quality care, patient experience and outcomes.

**Global sourcing of therapies**
- we will reach across the globe to ensure patients have access to the most effective drug therapies.

**Individualised patient care program**
- with a focus on outcomes that matter to patients, the Under the Canopy program has been specifically designed to support patients navigate their personal cancer journey as comfortably as possible.

**Purpose designed treatment clinics**
- ensuring a calm and relaxed healing environment.

**Canopy TV**
- an online news channel for the cancer community.

**Specialist on call 24/7**
- for complete peace of mind.

**Evidence based care and external accreditation**
- to ensure we are delivering world class care and treatment options.
Treatment options and referral options

If you have a patient experiencing the above symptoms, they may need to see a

- Dermatologist
- Specialist Surgeon

Followed by

- Radiation Oncologist and/or Medical Oncologist

Urgent contact: (09) 623 5602

Making a referral is easy

or contact: admin@canopycancercare.co.nz (Auckland and Northland)
or: admintauranga@canopycancercare.co.nz (Tauranga)
or fax: (09) 638 7295 (Auckland and Northland) or fax: (07) 577 0711 (Tauranga)

Canopy Cancer Care locations

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<th>Canopy North Shore</th>
<th>Canopy Tauranga</th>
<th>Canopy Whangarei</th>
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<tr>
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<td>850 Cameron Rd</td>
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