

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the UK. Malignant melanoma (the deadliest form of skin cancer) is now the most common cancer in the 15-34 age group claiming more lives in the UK each year than in Australia.



Karen Clifford passed away on New Year's Eve 2005 after a courageous battle against skin cancer. Since the disease was diagnosed, her family were dismayed to discover that while a few specialist organisations existed, there was in fact no specific all encompassing organisation with national aspirations.

Whilst recognising the existence of the annual Cancer Research UK "Sunsmart" campaign and the work undertaken by a few other skin cancer organisations in other parts of the UK, SKCIN firmly believe that skin cancer requires a continuous ongoing national campaign resulting in a significantly higher profile for the disease targeting all age groups at home and abroad at work and at play.

Together with medical professionals at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, the family and friends set out to establish what is hoped to be the first high profile charitable organisation targeting this specific form of cancer in the UK. The principal objective of the charity is to ensure that the danger of over-exposure to the sun is given greater profile with the emphasis on education resulting in the vital early detection of the disease.

The first sign of skin cancer can be as small as a full stop. A tiny mole you might never have noticed before. Yet if undetected or ignored this small dot of cancerous tissue can grow alarmingly quickly. Eventually it will kill you. This is why it's vital that you regularly check the moles on your body for any irregularities. If you notice new moles, or moles that have increased in size or changed shape or colour you should get it checked out immediately. If a mole becomes itchy, inflamed or bleeds you should also seek a medical opinion as soon as possible. Pre-cancerous moles are easy to treat and can usually be removed under local anaesthetic. An early melanoma can often be cured this way. But if left, forgotten about or just simply not noticed in time, the disease can quickly spread.

It is important that you check your skin regularly and consult your doctor if you notice any changes or unusual marks that have lasted more than a few weeks.



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AND THE SPF30+**

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www.skcin.org

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THE KAREN CLIFFORD SKIN CANCER CHARITY