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# Managing Skin Cancer

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 Springer

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## Preface

Skin cancer represents the most common cancer in humans, and we are currently facing increasing rates of newly diagnosed cutaneous neoplasm each year. The high incidence of skin cancer is a worldwide problem and millions of people are affected in different continents. In the past decades, great improvements have been achieved in the field of skin cancer research. Knowledge has been gained concerning the biology of skin cancer and risk factors; diagnosis has been improved and novel therapeutic modalities have been developed. As UV-exposure is known as the major risk factor for skin cancer, prevention can be achieved through UV-protection and regular sunscreen use. However, further prevention campaigns are needed to improve general knowledge with regard to skin cancer in the population, aiming for a future decrease in skin cancer incidence and more timely diagnosis. When diagnosed early, skin cancer is curable in the majority of cases and may be treated with simple surgery or non-invasive therapeutical approaches. Furthermore, the skin as our largest organ may be easily examined by simple total body examination, and any new or changed lesion may be easily visualized. Diagnostic tools such as dermoscopy and confocal microscopy may nowadays be used to improve diagnostic accuracy. In the future, these tools may help to achieve earlier diagnoses of the different forms of cutaneous neoplasms, especially malignant melanoma.

Because of the high numbers of patients affected worldwide, dermatologists are no longer the only specialty managing skin cancer patients. In many countries primary care physicians are performing regular skin checks and initiate early treatment, working closely with a dermatologist. Therefore, knowledge regarding diagnosis, appropriate treatments including recommended excision margins, the performance of sentinel lymph nodes biopsies, and the ability to use novel topical treatment modalities are of importance for all physicians involved.

*Managing Skin Cancer* has been designed to combine all relevant up to date information with regard skin cancer and to facilitate practical management of skin cancer patients by dermatologists as well as other medical disciplines. Thereby, the book mainly focuses on diagnosis, treatment and prevention of skin cancer with reference to recent international guidelines.

We hope that this book will guide clinicians in their daily practice and help them make the most appropriate decisions for their skin cancer patients.

Berlin, Germany  
Houston, USA  
Sydney, Australia

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Theodore Rosen  
Stephen Shumack

# Acknowledgements

Worldwide, millions of patients are affected by skin cancer. Therefore, many medical specialties are involved in the management of this global public health problem. Skin cancer represents an interdisciplinary disease starting with the primary diagnosis, followed by a diagnostic work-up, and then treatment. This publication will serve all physicians dealing with these patients. The clinician will find this book a practical guide for the management of skin cancer patients based on the experience of the authors, with reference to international guidelines for diagnosing and treating skin cancer.

This textbook would not have been finished without the enthusiasm and dedication of many people who have contributed a lot of their time and effort to this project.

The editors would like to thank all authors for their outstanding contributions to this book and for their interest and endeavour in the field of cutaneous oncology. All authors worked to a tight publication schedule for this book, and this helped ensure that up to date information has been included.

Furthermore, we thank the project coordinators, Birgit Hinrichs and Martina Ulrich, who have put a lot of hard work and dedication into this project.

Finally, we also thank our patients who inspire us to provide the best possible care. Many ideas and practical approaches were developed during the interaction with these patients.

Current and future developments may aid in the better prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin cancer, and we hope that this textbook will be part of this important process.

Berlin, Germany  
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