









Signs and Symptoms of Dysplastic Nevus

Dysplastic nevi usually begin to appear in adolescence, most often on the back, chest, abdomen, buttocks, and scalp. They usually are larger than ordinary nevi, averaging about 1 cm in size. Unlike common nevi, they are colored in varying shades of tan and brown. Sometimes they display an elevated darker portion in the center, with a flat, pale, fuzzy border, giving the appearance of a "fried egg."

Treatment for Dysplastic Nevus

People with dysplastic nevi should be routinely evaluated by a dermatologist once or twice a year. Family history is important, because relatives of persons with **dysplastic nevi and melanoma** should be examined more frequently. Self-examination at home is critical for detecting early changes. Photographs can be helpful as well.

Removing all of these moles is neither practical nor recommended, nor does it entirely remove the risk for developing melanoma. Dysplastic moles with an unusual appearance or suspicious changes often are removed for microscopic evaluation. People at higher risk for melanoma should minimize exposure to other risk factors associated with melanoma. For example, during the summer one should use sunscreen and wear a broad-brimmed hat when outdoors.

Dysplastic Nevus Prevention

There is no known way to prevent dysplastic nevi. However, wherever possible, further risk factors for melanoma should be reduced and sun protection or avoidance is recommended.

