

# Atypical Nevus



Atypical nevi, also known as atypical moles, are benign (non-cancerous) moles which look different than common moles. Most atypical nevi remain stable over time, but they may increase your risk for melanoma, a serious skin cancer.

An estimated **1 out of every 10** Americans has at least a single atypical mole.

Source: Skin Cancer Foundation



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## What happens now?

Most moles don't need treatment. If a biopsy determines your mole is cancerous, your doctor will remove it surgically. Removal takes a short time and is usually done on an outpatient basis. Although it is rare, atypical nevi can lead to melanoma, so check your skin regularly for new or changing moles.

**Have an open discussion with your doctor. Here are some questions that may help you better understand your status:**

- Are tests needed to confirm the diagnosis?
- What's the most appropriate course of action?
- What will testing cost? Does medical insurance cover it?
- How can I tell if a mole needs to be looked at?
- Can I prevent more moles from developing?

People with 10 or more atypical moles have **12 times the risk** of melanoma.

Source: Skin Cancer Foundation

## Treatment options

- Closely monitor questionable moles
- Skin biopsy



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**For more information, including tips on how to protect your skin from additional issues, visit [SpotTheSpot.org](https://www.spotthespot.org).**

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