

Early Detection and Treatment of Skin Cancer

TABLE 1
Skin Cancer Screening Recommendations from Various Organizations

ORGANIZATION	RECOMMENDATION
American Academy of Dermatology; Skin Cancer Foundation; and American Cancer Society	Annual complete skin examination for all patients
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	Age 20 to 39 years: complete skin examination every three years
	Age 40 years and older: annual complete skin examination
U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and American Academy of Family Physicians Policy Recommendation for Periodic Health Examination*	There is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against routine complete skin examination.
	Physicians should be alert to potentially malignant lesions when examining patients for other reasons, especially when they have risk factors for melanoma, and should consider referring patients with marker lesions (i.e., atypical nevi) to a skin cancer specialist.

*—Available at www.aafp.org/policy/camp/app-d—c.html.

Information from Public Health Service. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Clinician's handbook of preventive services. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1994:155.

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