FUNDAMENTALS:
Additional Risk Factors
• The risk of skin cancer is much higher for Caucasians than for people with pigment in their skin, such as people of African or Hispanic descent.

• People with fair (light-colored) skin that freckles or burns easily (so-called melanoma phenotype) are at especially high risk, particularly for melanoma.

• Family history is also a risk factor for all three types of skin cancer.
Additional risk factors for all types of skin cancer include:

- Albinism
- Xeroderma Pigmentosum
- Ionizing radiation treatment
- Previous skin cancer
- Longstanding inflammation of the skin such as
  - Scars from severe burns
  - Areas of skin over chronic bone infections (osteomyelitis)
  - Skin damaged by severe inflammatory skin diseases
- Solid organ transplant (e.g., kidney or heart)
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection
• Medications potentially associated with increased risk of skin cancers:
  
  – Photosensitizers
    • Ex. doxycycline, ibuprofen, amiodarone
  – Immunosuppressants
    • Ex. tacrolimus
Factors specific to skin cancer type

• Malignant melanoma:
  • Cyclin-dependent kinase gene (CDKN2A) mutation
    • Also known as p16 tumor suppressor gene or melanoma susceptibility gene.
  • Number of melanocytic nevi (>50)
    • Correlates to childhood sun exposure
  • Presence of atypical melanocytic nevi

• Squamous cell carcinoma:
  • HPV (types 16, 18; 31, 33, and 38 also implicated)
  • Arsenic exposure
  • Chemical carcinogens (tar, pitch)