What you might notice first about different marks and spots on your skin is the color. This atlas presents full-color photographs of common skin conditions and, in some cases, the results of treatment. If you notice a spot on your skin that you think may be skin cancer and is similar to photographs in this section, see your doctor promptly.

Use this metric ruler to measure your lesions of concern.

**Seborrheic keratosis**, a “barnacle of life,” is a benign growth. Often, many are present on the trunk.

Because it is often tan or brown, **seborrheic keratosis** can be confused with melanoma. It can even become irritated, as in this case where the keratosis is reddened around the edge.

**Genital warts** can be transmitted between sexual partners.

**Wart** around the fingernail, or periungual wart, should be biopsied if it has been present for more than ten years. Occasionally, these particular warts can change into skin cancer.

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Sun damage in a fair-skinned individual showing broken blood vessels, redness, and rough sun spots called actinic keratoses.

Rosacea of the nose is easily treated by laser.

Liver spots, or lentigos, are benign growths. If a change in color is noted and the spot has been present for a long period of time, it should be biopsied to make sure it is not an early form of melanoma.

Superficial basal cell cancer can resemble eczema, so any rash of this sort that does not resolve with topical treatment should be biopsied.
Nodular basal cell cancer starts very small, appearing as a small bump that bleeds occasionally or does not completely heal.

Morpheaform basal cell cancer, also called aggressive-growth basal cell cancer, has roots that extend under the surface of the skin. It is often larger than it appears on the surface and can be delayed in diagnosis because it resembles a scar in appearance.

Squamous cell cancer usually has a slightly rough surface and, like basal cell cancer, may bleed.

Actinic keratosis is a precancerous growth that occurs on sun-damaged skin. It is rough or scaly, raised, and usually red.
Normal moles.
Note regular borders and even pigmentation.

Atypical nevus, or mole, has irregular pigmentation and border.

Lentigo maligna.
Very early, highly treatable melanoma on the face. Most often seen in areas of sun exposure.

Café-au-lait spot, a non-cancerous flat, tan growth, may be removed with laser treatment.

Superficial spreading melanoma.
Demonstrating asymmetry of growth.

Acral lentiginous melanoma seen on the sole, demonstrating irregular border.
Patient with many atypical moles. Individuals with this many moles should be monitored closely by their dermatologist.

Brown streak in fingernail that could represent melanoma. Although such a streak is common in more darkly pigmented individuals, if you develop a pigmented band like this, see your dermatologist immediately.

**Nodular melanoma** on the earlobe demonstrating very dark color (black in this case).

Broken capillary on the nose of a child.

Same child, after treatment with the pulsed dye laser.
Growing **hemangioma** or blood vessel tumor on the eyelid of a child.

Hemangioma resolved after very early treatment with the pulsed dye laser.

Port wine stain birthmark of the face

After treatment with the pulsed dye laser, showing disappearance of birthmark

Port wine stain in an adult disappearing with laser treatment.

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Wrinkles due to sun damage. This patient only wanted cheek wrinkles treated.

Same individual two months after laser resurfacing. Note residual pink color that will resolve with time.

Micropeel freshens surface of skin.

Sunscreen, used to spell the word here, is effective sun protection.
Rhinophyma, a condition in which the oil glands of the nose enlarge resulting in disfigurement.

After sculpting with carbon dioxide laser.

Broken capillaries of rosacea can be successfully treated by laser.

Vitiligo patch on face with small graft used in Flip-Top transplantation technique.

Same individual with increasingly normal pigmentation in previous area of vitiligo as a result of transplantation of pigment cells. The pigmentation will continue to even out.