# Melanoma Skin Cancer Cases Reach Record High in the UK



**Record High in Melanoma Skin Cancer Cases in the UK**

Cancer Research UK has raised concerns about a significant increase in melanoma skin cancer cases within the UK. Projections for this year estimate 20,800 new cases, up from an annual average of 19,300 between 2020 and 2022. This rise is largely attributed to a growing and aging population and improved awareness of skin cancer signs.

Between 2009 and 2019, melanoma case rates increased from 21 to 28 per 100,000 people. The over-80 age group saw a notable rise from 61 to 96 cases per 100,000. There was also a 7% increase in melanoma diagnoses among those aged 25 to 49, with the rate rising from 14 to 15 per 100,000 during the same period.

Experts cite ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure as the primary cause, with nearly 90% of melanoma cases linked to UV rays. Improved early diagnosis and treatment have resulted in survival rates doubling over the past 50 years. Currently, almost nine in ten adults diagnosed with melanoma in England survive for at least a decade.

Cancer Research UK advises taking protective measures against UV exposure, such as spending time in the shade during peak sun hours, using high-SPF sunscreen, and wearing protective clothing and sunglasses.