



## **Patient Education for Melanoma Skin Cancer**

### **Incidence Trends in Melanoma**

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#### **TRANSCRIPT**

My name is Vernon Sondak. I'm the chair of the Department of Cutaneous Oncology at Moffitt Cancer Center. I'm going to speak today about one of the big changes in how we take care of patients with melanoma, and even some other forms of skin cancer, and that's what we call neoadjuvant or pre-operative therapy. I'm going to explain a little bit about what that is, why we do it, what the advantages are, and where we're heading with this new form of treatment.

These are my disclosures. I'm just going to start by reminding everyone about the magnitude of the problem that we faced with melanoma and what we may face in the future. These are the 2002 predictions from the American Cancer Society of the incidence of melanoma in the United States. And they predict nearly 200,000 new cases of melanoma and melanoma in situ and over 7600 deaths for this year 2022. As I said, it's a mixture of both invasive melanoma cases and melanoma in situ (noninvasive).

Here in Florida, where I practice, Florida is the second most common — the number two state — for melanomas in the United States. And these numbers are probably underestimated because so many cases of melanoma are diagnosed in a dermatologist's office and never get counted in the big statistics that we put together.

What's really important is where we are going. And if nothing changes, this black line right here, with the red star, symbolizes where we are today in 2022, with nearly 100,000 cases. 2040, that's 18 years from now, we will be at over 200,000 cases if nothing changes about the way we behave in the sun — wearing sunscreen, etc — we will be at over 200,000 cases of melanoma here. And that means that melanoma will become the second most common form of cancer in the United States, and the number one form in males.



And by the way, when I say “most common major cancer type,” that’s because basal and squamous cancers of the skin aren’t even counted by the American Cancer Society in their statistics. Together basal and squamous cell cancers are as common as every other form of cancer put together. So, we’re basically looking at skin cancer as essentially being two-thirds of all the cancers in the United States by the end of 2014 if nothing changes. We’ve really got to pay some attention to this big problem.