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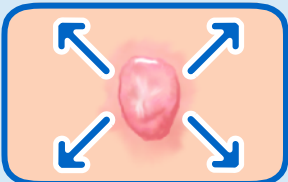
About basal cell carcinomas (BCCs) and how they are treated



Basal cell carcinoma

This booklet is about a kind of skin cancer called **basal cell carcinoma (BCC)**.

A BCC can also be called a **rodent ulcer** or **basalioma**.



Slowly

BCCs grow very slowly and do not usually spread to other parts of the body.



So BCCs are not usually a danger to your life.



This means that you might need to wait a few months before you can get treatment for your BCC.

Treatment



The usual treatment for a BCC is surgery.

This means cutting away the cancer and some of the healthy skin around it.



BCCs can be treated in lots of ways, including surgery and **radiotherapy**.

Radiotherapy is a kind of treatment that uses X-rays to treat cancer.

How to stay safe when you have a BCC

You should see your doctor if you have any marks or scabs on your skin that are:



- Growing or changing how they look, especially if this is happening very quickly.



- Bleeding and not healing, especially if they have not healed after 3 months.

If you have a BCC, you should also:



- Keep your skin safe from the sun.
You can do this by using sunscreen, covering up and staying in the shade between 11am and 3pm.



- Check your skin for any changes every month.

You can get a friend or family member to help you do this.



- Take clear photos on your phone over time to help you check if anything is changing.

You can find out more about BCCs by looking at:



- The British Association of Dermatologists website:
<https://tinyurl.com/zm6tacyf>



- The Macmillan website:
<https://tinyurl.com/k3z63uw>