



CALL TO ACTION

ECPC calls for MEPs to prioritise Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) and other rare cancers in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. Primary prevention is the most impactful and cost-effective measure. Therefore policy makers should actively engage in awareness campaigns on MCC, underlining the importance of early diagnosis, risk factors and warning signs. MEPs should support a multidisciplinary treatment approach and promote measures to facilitate equal access to the best treatment and support available for all EU citizens. MEPs are responsible to act not only at EU level, but also as ambassadors of the European priorities in their countries of origin supporting synergies among patients, health care providers and other stakeholders.



MCC HIGH-RISK FACTORS INCLUDE:

- light skin colour
- impaired immune function
- men
- over 50's



PREVENTION



Avoid tanning and sunbeds



Cover up



Use sunscreen



Talk to your doctor



WARNING SIGNS

Regularly self-examine your skin and contact your dermatologist when something unusual appears or changes.

Have you spotted something?
Try **AEIOU**.

A: ASYMPTOMATIC lesion, not painful or tender.

E: Lesion is EXPANDING rapidly

I: You are IMMUNOsuppressed

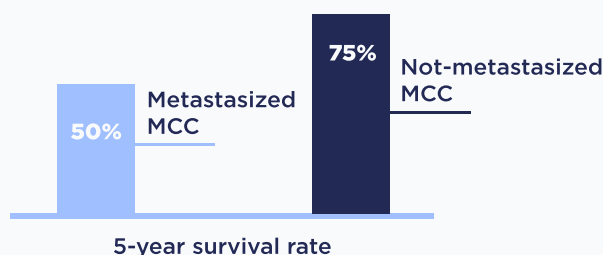
O: You are OLDER than 50

U: The lesion appears on UV-exposed skin



CHALLENGES IN DIAGNOSIS

- Often misdiagnosed
- Rapidly spreading disease
- Difficult to treat when diagnosed late



PROGNOSIS DEPENDS ON:

1) The stage of the cancer:

- the size of the tumor
- whether the cancer has metastasized

2) Overall health and well-being of the patient

3) Whether the cancer has been diagnosed for the first time or it has recurred



TREATMENT

Given the rarity yet severity of this cancer, it is recommended to seek diagnosis from an experienced, multidisciplinary team.



European Cancer
Patient Coalition