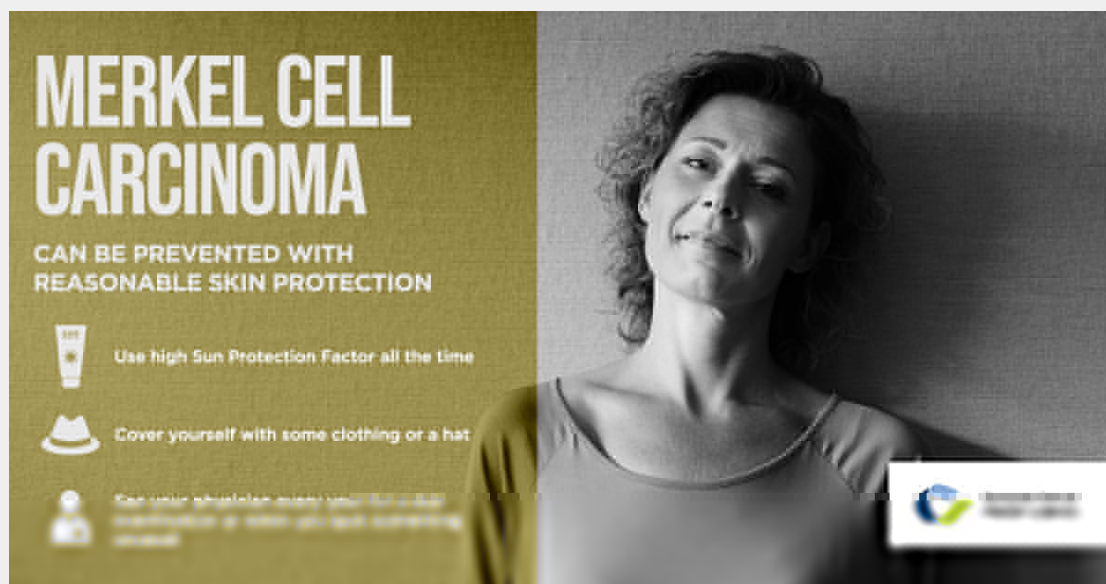




European Cancer Patient Coalition



MERKEL CELL CARCINOMA

Dear Members,

On Monday 24th May 2021, **ECPC will launch the awareness campaign on [Merkel Cell Carcinoma \(MCC\)](#)**. With this campaign, we want to **raise awareness on this rare but extremely aggressive form of skin cancer** known to have a 25 – 40% chance of recurring and spreading (metastasizing) in two to three years after first diagnosis. Moreover, it is possible to **reduce the risk of developing MCC** by taking preventive measures.

The pandemic has had far-reaching effects on the healthcare systems globally and ECPC is deeply concerned about delays in the diagnosis and management of skin cancers including MCC. Please, take care of your skin and spread the campaign.

May 2021

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Toolkit

Contact us

More Info



ECPC developed a social media toolkit with posts and visuals raising awareness on **Merkel Cell Carcinoma**. We hope you will join the campaign, whether you support us by **re-sharing our posts** on our social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)) or you can **create your own posts** by using our messages or customising them for your followers. They will be published during the European Week Against Cancer taking place from the 24th to the 30th May 2021. We encourage you to visit our [website](#).

Any kind of support is highly appreciated!

About Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) is a rare skin cancer that is associated with Merkel cell polyomavirus infection in most cases. Incidence rates of MCC have increased in past decades. Risk factors for MCC include ultraviolet light exposure, immunosuppression and advanced age. MCC is an aggressive malignancy with frequent recurrences and a high mortality rate, although patient outcomes are generally more favourable if the patient is referred for treatment at an early stage.

ECPC on Merkel Cell Carcinoma

It is years that ECPC has led the efforts to raise awareness among its members in all EU Member States and beyond about this aggressive form of skin cancer - Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC). In previous years, ECPC has developed a brochure informing about prevention, risk factors and treatment that was then translated in another [14 languages](#), printed and distributed in respective countries. In 2020, ECPC launched the first awareness campaign on MCC on social media to bring the attention of a broader audience to this very rare and aggressive disease. The campaign targeted the general population as well as

Merkel cell carcinomas may be curable when detected and treated at an early stage, but since this disease is usually aggressive and it advances quickly with high chances of local and distant recurrence, early detection and removal are crucial. Moreover, it is possible to reduce the risk of developing MCC by taking preventive measures. It was thus considered necessary to undertake further actions aimed at raising awareness of MCC among general public in this year's campaign.

ECPC emphasises the importance of educating the general public about prevention, self-examining and warning signs. Furthermore, we will try to find a patient diagnosed with this type of rare skin cancer and involve the patient in the campaign.



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European Cancer Patient Coalition

Rue Montoyer 40

Brussels 1000

Belgium

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