

Skin Cancer Screening and Prevention Case Study

Patient Profile

S.N., a 30-year-old white woman, comes to the clinic for a physical examination. She is fair skinned with blue eyes. She works as a waitress and loves outdoor sports.

Subjective Data

- Wants a “checkup” because her father recently died of melanoma
- Wants to know if she will get this cancer
- Loves the “outdoors” and swims every day

Objective Data

- Blood pressure 112/68, pulse 60, temperature 97.6°F, respirations 16
- Height 5’5, weight 125 lb
- Arms, legs, and face are darkly tanned
- Skin examination within normal limits, no evidence of lesions, rashes, or pigment changes

Please answer discussion questions and give rationale for your answer.

1. What is the priority of care for S.N. and why?
2. Along with the physical examination, what other form of nursing assessment is indicated?
3. How do you distinguish between a normal mole and malignant melanoma?
4. List 5 risk factors for the development of skin cancer. What factors does S.N. have?
5. What would you include in a teaching plan for S. N. to reduce her risk of developing precancerous and cancerous lesions?