

Screen Test

The dedicated dermatologists of SkinPros preach the power of the simple—and lifesaving—skin cancer screening and the good medicine of partnering with patients.

“What’s that spot on your forehead?”

Travis P. remembers the first time his wife asked him that question—and the first time he replied, “Ah, it’s nothing.”

Over the next year, as “that spot” got bigger, Travis, a Newport-area landscaper, continued to brush off his wife’s concerns. “Honestly, I just thought it would go away,” he recalls today. “I hardly ever go to the doctor, and I felt fine! But one day she told me, ‘Get in the car. We’re going to SkinPros.’ And you know, that spot turned out to be melanoma. That appointment was the first step in a journey that saved my life.”

Antonio P. Cruz, MD, a renowned dermatologist and founder of this Rhode Island-based specialty practice, sees patients like Travis (not his real name) all the time. “There’s no question that we serve a high-risk population here; we Southern New Englanders grew up on beaches—and many of us never used sunscreen,” notes Dr. Cruz. “Most people just don’t realize how important it is to see a dermatologist for regular skin cancer screenings. It’s such a simple thing, but every study shows that early diagnosis saves lives.”

So does prevention, but many have no idea how to prevent damage. In fact, just a single blistering sunburn in a lifetime doubles one’s risk of developing melanoma and other skin cancers later in life, says Dr. Cruz. And just one under-age-30 visit to a tanning bed raises that risk to 75 percent.

Education is Key

“People desperately need this information,” says Mark Trott, a SkinPros dermatology physician assistant. “That’s why we take all

the time we need to educate our patients about skin care, sunscreen use—everything!” During skin cancer screenings, patients receive a careful head-to-toe examination and a detailed risk assessment. “We want to know about family history, sun exposure, and tanning bed use. We look at every concerning mole or lesion with a dermatoscope; it gives us detail you just can’t get with the naked eye,” adds Trott.

Basal and squamous cell cancers—by far the most common—can often be treated right in the SkinPros offices with cryosurgery, electrodesiccation and curettage, medicated creams, and Mohs micrographic surgery. Dr. Cruz is a fellowship-trained Mohs surgeon who performs 2,000 of the skin cancer procedures every year. Most patients walk out of the office cancer-free.

Many patients come to SkinPros seeking not only healthy skin, but beautiful, youthful skin. “We offer the very latest—and very safest—products available in cosmetic dermatology,” says Trott.

Today, after treatment at a major New England cancer center, Travis P. is cancer-free. He visits SkinPros regularly for follow-up appointments and says he is deeply grateful to Dr. Cruz for his prompt diagnosis, stellar referrals, and caring involvement throughout his illness. “It was a close call,” he says. “Now I’m the one telling my buddies, ‘Get that spot checked!’”



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SkinPros is a top-tier general dermatology practice with offices in Providence, Newport, and Cumberland. Services include:

- skin cancer screenings
- on-site Mohs micrographic surgery
- leading-edge treatment of eczema and psoriasis
- laser dermatology for treatment of acne, rosacea, and vitiligo and for tattoo removal and skin rejuvenation
- cosmetic dermatology products and procedures such as Dysport®, Restylane®, and laser resurfacing