



SKIN | CANCER | FOCUS

What is Serial Dermoscopy and Mole Mapping?

Serial dermoscopy, also called **digital dermoscopy**, is a method of monitoring moles, freckles, and other skin lesions over time using **high-resolution imaging**. Mole mapping involves photographing your entire skin surface so that new moles or changes in existing moles can be tracked accurately.

This helps your doctor detect early signs of **skin cancer**, particularly **melanoma**, even before changes are visible to the naked eye.

How is it Done?

1. **Full-Body Photography:**
Using the **Canfield D2 system**, your doctor takes standardized, high-resolution photographs of your entire body. These images serve as a baseline for future comparisons.
2. **Digital Dermoscopy:**
Individual moles are imaged with a **dermoscope camera**. The **DermaGraphix software** allows detailed magnification and storage of each mole's features.
3. **Comparison Over Time:**
On follow-up visits, the images are compared to previous ones to detect subtle changes in shape, color, or size. This process is called **serial dermoscopy**.

Who Should Have Mole Mapping?

- Individuals with **many moles** (more than 50).
- Those with **atypical or dysplastic moles**.
- People with a **family history of melanoma**.
- Anyone who has had **skin cancer** previously.

Benefits

- Detects melanoma early when treatment is most effective.
- Reduces unnecessary biopsies of benign moles.
- Provides a **detailed record** of all your moles.
- Enables your dermatologist to **monitor changes accurately**.

What to Expect During the Appointment

- The process is **painless** and **non-invasive**.
- You may be asked to **undress to underwear** for full-body imaging.
- The session usually takes **15-20 minutes**, depending on the number of moles.
- Images are **stored securely** in your medical record for future comparison.

After the Appointment

- You will **not feel any discomfort** after imaging.
- Follow-up visits are usually scheduled **every 6–12 months**, or sooner if any moles change.
- Continue **regular self-examination** of your skin and report new or changing moles promptly.

Privacy & Safety

- All images are **confidential** and protected according to medical privacy laws.
- The imaging process **does not involve radiation**; it is completely safe.

Tips for Self-Checking Moles

- Use the **ABCDE** rule:
 - **A** – Asymmetry
 - **B** – Border irregularity
 - **C** – Color variation
 - **D** – Diameter >6mm
 - **E** – Evolving/change over time
- Report any **itching, bleeding, or rapid changes** immediately.

If you have any questions or concerns about the procedure, please discuss them with your doctor before your appointment.