

Solar (Actinic) Keratoses

Solar keratoses are rough, red, scaly spots that are caused by repeated, prolonged sun exposure. These keratoses are most common in people who have fair complexion, blue eyes and red or blond hair. However, anyone who chronically exposes his or her skin to the sun, especially during the midday hours, will eventually develop keratoses or associated "age spots" or "liver spots."

Keratoses are considered pre-malignant. More than 25 percent of them will become cancerous. Therefore, they should be treated.

Family Dermatology will remove most pre-malignant keratoses with liquid nitrogen. If a keratosis appears to have advanced to a skin cancer, the doctor will remove it surgically and will submit it for biopsy.

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