



SEBORRHEIC KERATOSIS

Seborrheic keratoses are common, non-cancerous growths of the outer layer of the skin which first appear during adult life. As time goes by, more growths appear. Some persons have a very large number of them. Seborrheic keratoses appear on both covered and uncovered parts of the body; they are not caused by sunlight. The tendency to develop seborrheic keratoses is inherited.

Seborrheic keratoses are harmless and do not become malignant. They begin as slightly raised, light brown or yellow spots. Gradually they thicken and take on a rough, warty, and sometimes waxy surface. They soon may darken and may turn gray or black. Seborrheic keratoses are superficial and look as though they were stuck on the skin. Persons who have had several keratoses can usually recognize this type of benign growth. However, if you are concerned or unsure about any growth, please call for an appointment so that we can examine and/or biopsy changing or growing lesions.

Seborrheic keratoses must be differentiated from actinic keratoses, which occur only on sun damaged skin and which are considered to be pre-malignant. Actinic keratoses are usually pink and slightly scaly and are found on the face and forearms most commonly. Normally it is easy for a dermatologist to distinguish between actinic keratoses and seborrheic keratoses.

Seborrheic keratoses can easily be removed in the office by freezing, scraping or burning. Freezing may result in a blister that crusts and peels. The keratosis should fall off in a few weeks and sometimes leaves a discolored area which usually fades with time. The main reasons for removing a seborrheic keratosis is that they can be unsightly, become irritated, itchy or they just annoy you.

Medicare and other insurance companies will only allow payment for seborrheic keratoses which are itching, burning or changing in any way. Insurance companies may consider removal of these lesions a cosmetic procedure. We are happy to remove any of these lesions for you; however, treatment of asymptomatic lesions can not be billed to insurance companies.

If any lesion bleeds or changes color, it should be reevaluated by your dermatologist.

***The price for destruction of seborrheic keratoses is:
\$55 for the 1st lesion and \$10 for each additional lesion.***