ALBANY DERMATOLOGY
COSMETIC ESTHETIC MEDICAL SURGICAL

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PHOTO MOLE MAPPING

Photo Mole Mapping is a noninvasive tool to monitor atypical nevi (moles) over time. It involves using digital photography to track changes in moles, which can be an early sign of melanoma, a dangerous skin cancer.

Who is at risk?

- Photo Mole Mapping may be recommended for patients with a personal history of melanoma or atypical nevi (moles), a family history of melanoma, or numerous unusual moles.

What to Expect:

- A photographer will take digital photos of your entire skin surface. Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes that are easy to put on and take off and remove jewelry and watches. If you have long hair, bring something along to pull it back into a ponytail. You will be asked to undress down to your underwear. A gown is provided for portions of the photo session and you are welcome to bring a chaperone. Plan to spend about 15-30 minutes to complete this photo session.
- Your photographs will be maintained within your Albany Dermatology electronic medical record so they can be reviewed for changes at subsequent medical visits. At your request and for a handling fee, you may receive a copy of your photos on a CD for you to monitor your skin between visits.
- A biopsy of a suspicious mole will be scheduled whenever a change in a mole is detected since this could be an early sign of melanoma. Early detection is important because melanoma is very treatable in its early stages.

Does Insurance Cover the Visit?

- The cost of Photo Mole Mapping is not covered by insurance. A fee of $30 for the cost of the images is paid directly to the photographer at the time of the visit. VISA, MasterCard, Discover®, bank checks, and cash are accepted.

Why are unusual lesions photographed instead of removed?

- Lesions photographed are not suspicious for melanoma - however, they have unusual features that may defy some of the criteria that are established for typical moles. Photo Mole Mapping helps reduce unnecessary removal of completely benign moles by documenting change over time. If there is a lesion that is suspicious for atypical mole or melanoma detected through the images, we will notify you and arrange for further evaluation.