

Our Doctors

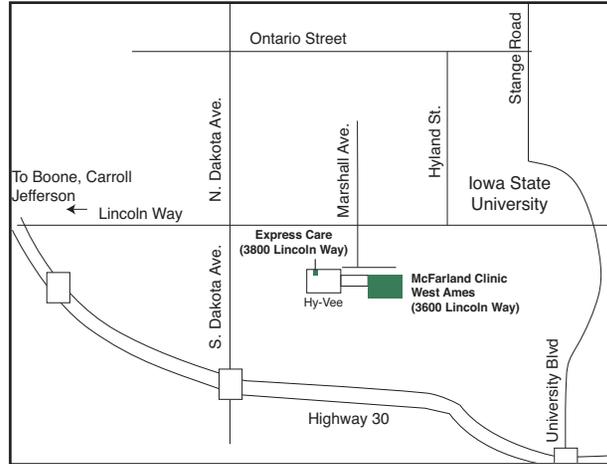


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McFarland Clinic

High Risk Skin Cancer Clinic

Dermatology and Mohs Surgery Department



McFarland Clinic

Who is At Risk

The incidence of skin cancer is increasing dramatically. As the incidence increases, we as Mohs surgeons and dermatologists are seeing more aggressive forms of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma and other rare forms of skin cancer.

The following patients will benefit from ongoing surveillance through the High Risk Skin Cancer Clinic at McFarland Clinic.

- Immunosuppressed transplant recipients (all, not just those with a history of skin cancer, as their risk of developing skin cancer increases by up to 65x that of the general population)
- Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and other adult leukemias/lymphomas
- Patients on long term immunosuppression for treatment of autoimmune disease (Cyclosporine, methotrexate, azathioprine, prednisone, TNF alpha inhibitors)
- Patients with history of poorly differentiated squamous cell carcinoma or with history of squamous cell carcinoma with perineural invasion
- Patients with history of melanoma

Patients do not need to wait until after they have a diagnosis of skin cancer. If a patient meets any of the above listed criteria that categorizes them as being in a high risk group, they should be sent to the clinic for screening and education.

Why this Clinic

Immunosuppressed patients, and those identified at higher risk, develop numerous skin cancers, and the skin cancers they develop are often more numerous and more aggressive.

Many of these are not seen immediately, but the risks increase with the time and degree of their immunosuppression in many cases. Prevention and a proactive approach to treatment is key in these patient populations.

Skin cancer is the #1 cause of death in Australian heart transplant recipients after the first four years. In patients with CLL and non-basal cell carcinoma skin cancer, mortality is as high from skin cancer as it is from CLL. Aggressive screening and treatment are key to the health of all these immunosuppressed patients.

Below are references to medical publications in support of High Risk Skin Cancer Clinics:

- Lymphoma-associated skin cancer: incidence, natural history, and clinical management. *Int J Dermatol* 2014 Mar;53(3):267-74.
- Skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients: Advances in therapy and management. Part I. Epidemiology of skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2011;65:253-61.
- Skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients: Advances in therapy and management. Part II. Management of skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2011;65:263-79.
- Nonmelanoma Skin Cancer in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients: Update on Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Management. *Dermatol Surg* 2012; 38:1622.

Goals of the Clinic

We are committed to meeting the needs of our patients and helping to prevent skin cancer. Our goals in establishing a dedicated High Risk Skin Cancer Clinic are as follows:

- To proactively screen and treat high risk patient populations.
- To aggressively treat precancerous disease to minimize risks of skin cancers.
- To diagnosis skin cancers early and treat appropriately.
- To effectively treat aggressive skin cancers that have occurred, in a multidisciplinary fashion that is highly coordinated to benefit the patient.
- To educate at risk patients on the need for sun protection and skin cancer prevention.