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## Just in time for the summer sun: dermatology center offers free cancer screenings

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With the summer sun heating up the month of May and vacationers wiping on the sunscreen, many forget about the devastating circumstances of too much sun. But one McKinney doctor has decided to combat skin cancer by offering a free screening to residents.

Mandy Warthan, M.D., is a double board-certified dermatologist and dermatopathologist at Warthan Dermatology Center in McKinney. Because May has been designated by the American Academy of Dermatology as National Skin Cancer Awareness Month, Warthan is offering a free cancer screening to McKinney residents.

The free screening will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 23 to raise awareness about malignant melanoma, a fatal form of skin cancer. Warthan has been in practice since 2006 and has participated in several screenings.

"This free skin cancer screening is such an important event, and I feel very passionate about saving lives by early screening to prevent malignant melanomas," she said. "This is an opportunity for the entire community to come have a free skin cancer screening."

Warthan said through early detection, malignant melanoma is curable; however, when it is not detected early, it is deadly and unresponsive to most chemotherapies and radiation.

"I think there is a real need in the community for more awareness about skin cancer," she said. "It's very treatable if found early but fatal if it's found later. Most people don't know they should get their moles checked every year and get a full-body scan. For example, one of my best friend's family members passed away a few weeks ago from melanoma. It really hits home when it's someone close to you."

Warthan has participated in several free screenings before, though this is her first screening at her own facility. She said she hopes to see about 50 people in the two-hour slot.

"I've participated at hospitals where we had nearly 200 people attend in one morning, but there have also been times when we have only seen about 30," she said.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, one in 40 Americans will get malignant melanoma during their lifetime.

"[We] are happy to offer free screenings to the McKinney community in an effort to prevent malignant melanomas and help save lives," she said.

To help prevent malignant melanoma, Warthan suggests self-skin exams and watching for any changes in moles.

"The ABCDEs were developed by the American Academy of Dermatology to teach the public about what to look for when examining their own moles," she said. "A is for asymmetric moles, B is for moles with jagged or uneven borders, C is for color, D is for diameter, and E is for evolving - or for moles that are changing or growing or look different."

Warthan said to watch for moles with light and dark brown or black in the same mole or multiple colors in one mole and for diameters larger than 6 millimeters or the size of a pencil eraser.

"Any mole that bleeds, itches, changes in appearance or shape, or will not heal should be checked by a dermatologist," she said.

For information about Melanoma Monday or melanoma, visit [melanomamonday.org](http://melanomamonday.org) or [www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org).