

## 08. What is the most important risk factor for skin cancer?

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Skin cancer is caused by DNA damage, which can result from excess exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light. Having a previous occurrence of skin cancer or a close family member with the disease also puts you at risk for skin cancer. Other risk factors include having:

- a weak immune system
  
- unusual moles or a large number of moles
  
- white or light (fair)-colored skin, especially with freckles
  
- blond or red hair or blue or green eyes
  
- scars or burns on the skin, or skin diseases that make someone sensitive to the sun.