

SEBORRHEIC KERATOSIS



WHAT IS IT?

A seborrheic keratosis is a harmless warty spot that appears in 90% of adults over the age of 60. A seborrheic keratosis usually appears as a brown, black or light tan growth on the face, chest, shoulders or back. The growth has a waxy, scaly, slightly elevated appearance. Seborrheic keratosis don't become cancerous and aren't thought to be related to sun exposure, but they can look like skin cancer

Some people have hundreds of them. It is also called SK, basal cell papilloma, senile wart, brown wart or barnacle.

HOW DID I GET IT?

The precise cause of Seborrheic Keratosis is not known. However, this skin condition often runs in families and your risk increases with the number of affected relatives.

HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your doctor can usually diagnose seborrheic keratosis by inspecting the growth. She might recommend removing the tissue so it can be examined under a microscope.

TREATMENT

Treatment of seborrheic keratosis usually isn't necessary. You may want them removed if they become irritated, if they bleed because your clothing rubs against them, or if you simply don't like how they look or feel.

Your doctor can remove seborrheic keratosis using several methods, including:

- **Cryosurgery** – Freezing with liquid nitrogen. It doesn't always work on raised growths, and it may lighten treated skin.
- **Curettage** – Scraping the skin's surface with a special instrument. Sometimes curettage is used along with cryosurgery to treat thinner or flat growths. It may be used with electrocautery.
- **Electrocautery** – Burning with an electric current. It can be used alone or with curettage. This procedure can leave scars if it's not done properly, and it may take longer than other removal methods.
- **Ablation** – Vaporizing the growth with a laser. Different types of laser treatments are available to treat seborrheic keratosis