Hoag Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program

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"The Hoag Family Cancer Institute has made a substantial commitment to greatly enhance the clinical and research components of Hoag's new Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program. This includes dramatically increasing surgical expertise with improved patient access and technological advancements in early detection exclusively available at Hoag within the western United States."

— Burton Eisenberg, MD
Grace E. Hoag Executive Medical Director Endowed Chair, Hoag Family Cancer Institute

The Hoag Family Cancer Institute is boldly reimagining how skin cancer care is delivered. Led by recently-recruited national experts in surgical and dermatologic oncology—Thomas Wang, MD, PhD, FACS, and Steven Wang, MD, respectively—Hoag's new Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program is leveraging state-of-the-art technology to partner with community dermatologists and provide streamlined care for high-risk patients.

With a melanoma rate that exceeds the national average, California dermatologists face the challenge of managing surveillance for an increasing number of patients.

Together, Dr. Thomas Wang, medical director, and Dr. Steven Wang, director of dermatologic oncology, have a vision for Hoag's Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program that utilizes a tripartite approach: genetic testing, cutting-edge imaging, and innovative surgical and medical treatments.

By working with local dermatologists, Drs. Thomas Wang and Steven Wang can apply this approach to help increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of early detection for patients at risk of melanoma and other forms of skin cancer. When advanced disease is detected, the pair will partner with Hoag's expert medical oncologists to determine the best therapeutic modality for each patient.

State-of-the-Art Technology

Thanks to philanthropy, Hoag will be the first in California to provide access to the VECTRA WB360 whole-body 3D imaging system. With 46 cameras that flash spontaneously to capture the entire skin surface, artificial intelligence maps out all of a patient's moles and lesions in less than one second. What's more, clinicians can track changing lesions and identify those of concern, fundamentally changing the way dermatologists deliver care to high-risk patients.

What To Know About Melanoma

Melanomas aren't always dark spots. Early melanoma can be light brown or even pink in color.

People with a personal or family history of melanoma are urged to have at least one full-body skin exam annually. Early detection is key to ensuring the best outcomes.

Cutting edge technologies including dermoscopy and 3D total body photography are just some of the tools that leading dermatologists can utilize to detect skin cancer at its earliest stage, reducing many unnecessary biopsies.

"Physicians at Hoag are committed to a collaborative approach in providing our patients with the best and most advanced care in the treatment of melanoma. Through expertise in multiple specialties and involvement in cancer research, we hope to one day eliminate all skin cancer deaths."

— Thomas Wang, MD, PhD, FACS
Medical Director, Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program

"The dermatology team at Hoag is introducing a wide range of innovative diagnostic modalities and workflows that can fundamentally improve the diagnosis of melanomas and non-melanoma skin cancers at the earliest stage while minimizing the number of unnecessary skin biopsies. Combined with cutting-edge surgical and non-surgical treatment modalities, we plan to deliver the best clinical care in the management of skin cancers."

— Steven Q. Wang, MD
Director of Dermatologic Oncology,
Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program

Visit Hoag's website or call 949-722-6237 to learn more about the program and book an appointment.

CLICK HERE to support Hoag's Melanoma & Complex Skin Cancer Program or contact Tommy Muzzy, development officer, Hoag Hospital Foundation, at 949-764-7035 or Tommy.Muzzy@hoag.org.

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