



**ONE GOAL:
DISCOVER THE CURE**

A WORLD WITHOUT MELANOMA

O C U L A R M E L A N O M A

Ocular melanoma (also known as uveal melanoma) is a type of melanoma that develops in or around the eye. Although it represents less than 5% of all melanoma cases in the U.S., it is the most common eye cancer in adults. In fact, the median age at diagnosis for ocular melanoma is 62 years.

Ocular Melanoma Risk Factors

Although the exact cause of ocular melanoma is not known, certain attributes, characteristics, and exposures make it more likely that a person will develop this type of cancer. These risk factors include:

- Exposure to natural sunlight or artificial sunlight (such as from tanning beds) over long periods of time
- Having light-colored eyes (blue or green)
- Older age
- Light-colored skin
- Certain inherited skin conditions, such as dysplastic nevus syndrome, which cause abnormal moles
- Abnormal skin pigmentation involving the eyelids and increased pigmentation on the uvea
- A mole in the eye or on the eye's surface

Ocular Melanoma Symptoms

In its early stages, ocular melanoma may not cause any symptoms and is often detected during a routine eye exam. When they do occur, they can include:

- A dark spot on the iris or conjunctiva
- Blurred or distorted vision or a blind spot in your side vision
- The sensation of flashing lights
- A change in the shape of the pupil

www.AIMatMelanoma.org

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