

SSDP DERMATOLOGISTS PROVIDE LIFESAIVING SERVICE AT ANNUAL SKIN CANCER SCREENING



(No. Easton, MA) – Thirty-six women and 18 men were screened for evidence of melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, and related illnesses by the dermatologists from South Shore Dermatology Physicians, PC, (SSDP), in May. Drs. Leera M. Briceno, Anu G. Jayaraman, Katalin Kovalszki, Jay M. Ritt, and Viraj Shroff-Mehta, shared their professional skills with the community at the 2010 Skin Cancer Screening conducted at Caritas Good Samaritan Medical Center (CGSMC). The screenings were part of the American Academy of Dermatology’s (AAD) National Skin Cancer Screening Program.

Of the 54 people screened, just under half said they had never before had their skin checked for cancer by a dermatologist or other doctor. The screenings also provided the participants with valuable health information.

Eight possible skin cancers were detected, including one malignant melanoma, one squamous cell carcinoma, and six basal cell carcinomas. Twenty-three other skin conditions were revealed, including seborrheic keratosis and/or actinic keratosis, dysplastic nevus, congenital nevus, and mole/nevus. One tick was removed. Approximately one quarter of the participants were advised to see a physician for a follow-up visit and 11 were advised to undergo a skin biopsy.

Since the National Skin Cancer Screening Program’s inception in 1985, volunteer dermatologists have performed more than 2 million free skin cancer screenings. More than 188,000 suspicious lesions have been detected, including more than 21,500 suspected melanomas.

The rising incidence of skin cancer is a concern for people of all ages. Once believed to afflict mostly older adults, melanoma now is the most common form of cancer for young adults 25-29 years old and the second-most-common form of cancer for adolescents and young adults 15-29 years old. The [AAD](#) reports that more than 1 million cases of skin

cancer are diagnosed in the US every year. Current estimates are that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in his or her lifetime.

In light of these statistics, SSDP has made skin cancer prevention a centerpiece of its practice. “SSDP is dedicated to educating our patients about the role of sun exposure in the development of skin cancer,” explains Dr. Shroff-Mehta. “It begins with teaching children about sun safety and adults about preventing sun damage and caring for their skin. Participating in annual Skin Cancer Screenings helps bring the message to the community and the doctors at SSDP are pleased to be part of this effort.”