

New DNA skin test for melanoma

As we age, our skin develops wrinkles, brown spots, aberrant blood vessels, a leathery texture and “degradation of the collagen matrix of the skin.”

“These unfavorable skin changes are markedly exacerbated by sun exposure,” says Dr. James Daniel, clinic director of the Carling Laser Clinic in Ottawa. “Skin cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer, and is closely linked to the degree of sun exposure.”

Other risk factors for skin cancer include a history of regular tanning, sun burns, a genetically related relative that has been diagnosed with skin cancer (especially melanoma), or antecedent premalignant skin lesions.

There is now a simple test that can objectively assess your risks of developing melanoma. The dermaDNA™ skin test is only available through a licensed physician.

The dermaDNA™ MD Cellular Assessment involves a simple swab of the skin cells on the inside of the cheek that allows physicians to analyze specific

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genetic variants that postulate a statistically elevated risk of developing skin cancer.

A second swab of skin cells on the bridge of the nose is used to analyze the degree of sun damage.

In Ottawa, the Carling Laser Clinic (www.carlinglaserclinic.com) is the only available site currently offering this test. Dr. Daniel feels that that the dermaDNA™ skin test offers “a powerful diagnostic tool, which, when combined with the clinical history and skin examination, can better assess a patient’s risk for skin cancer.”

The Carling Laser Clinic also employs a sophisticated digital skin imaging system that is able to accurately analyze and monitor a patient’s skin condition. A supporting skin treatment product has been developed to repair cellular DNA damage in the skin and protect it from further



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harmful damage, which could lead to premature aging and skin cancer.