

## **St. Joseph's Offering Genetic Testing for Melanoma Cancer**

Arizona residents lead the United States in getting skin cancer. Most people have been warned to play it safe by staying out of the sun during peak hours and by wearing sun protection when possible. But for some, even basic skin protection may not be enough because one type of skin cancer is genetic.

Five to 10 percent of melanoma cancers are genetic, and those with the genetic mutation are 76 percent more likely to get melanoma cancer.

St. Joseph's Comprehensive Cancer Center is now offering genetic testing to help people determine if they are at risk for melanoma cancer. The test identifies the P16 gene the causes melanoma and pancreatic cancer.

The genetic risk assessment is offered to individuals who are concerned about their personal or family history of these cancers. The assessment helps them understand the role genes play in the occurrence or redevelopment of the disease.

The initial consultation is free and a physician referral is not required. If genetic testing is recommended, participants will undergo a blood test to determine if they have a genetic mutation. The blood test is covered by most insurance companies.

St. Joseph's also provides genetic testing for other types of hereditary cancers including breast, ovarian and colorectal cancers.

To schedule a consultation, please call 602-406-8841.