



Actinic Keratoses

Actinic keratoses, more commonly known as precancers, are most often the result of chronic sun exposure. They are found on the face, ears, balding scalp, dorsal hands, and forearms. In appearance, actinic keratoses can be dry, scaly, rough textured, skin-colored to reddish-brown patch, or a slightly elevated “bump.” Commonly, a patient complains of a tender sandpaper-like lesion that when scratched off, returns in the same location. Patients with actinic keratoses have a tendency to develop non-melanoma cutaneous malignancies. These precancers can be prevented with regular application of sunscreen and sun protective clothing. Treatment includes cryosurgery, surgical removal and biopsy, topical chemotherapy, chemical peels, and photodynamic therapy.

This is the medical opinion of Savannah River Dermatology. For additional information, please contact us at 706-691-7079.