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**Mayo Clinic Minute: Melanoma misconception — dark skin tones at risk, too**

VIDEO	AUDIO
	"Melanin is the protein component of the skin that gives our skin color."
	Darker skin tones have more melanin. The pigment protects against sun damage and lowers the risk of skin cancer. Some people with dark complexions think melanin shields them from getting skin cancer. But Dr. Dawn Davis says that's a myth.
<b>Dawn Davis, M.D.</b> <b>Dermatology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b>	"All patients, including patients who are skin of color, have a risk of melanoma. Children can also have melanoma."
	When melanoma develops in people of color, it's often diagnosed at a later stage and is more aggressive. But that could be because skin cancer in people with darker skin may appear in unexposed areas.
	"Under your armpits, in your genital area, under your nails, fingernails and toenails, and on the palms and soles."
	Dr. Davis says people of color, including children, should wear sunscreen and perform regular skin self-exams.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Sonya Goins.