

**Mayo Clinic Medical Edge**

***How Skin Cancer Spreads***

1:00

**Log**

**Audio**

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<b>Intro with music</b>	GIVING YOU THE EDGE ON HEALTHY LIVING, HERE'S MAYO CLINIC MEDICAL EDGE.
	MALIGNANT MELANOMA IS A DEADLY FORM OF SKIN CANCER. IT DEVELOPS FROM MELANOCYTES WHICH ARE PIGMENT CELLS THAT PRODUCE THE COLOR IN YOUR SKIN. THE CANCER GENERALLY STARTS AS A NEW OR IRREGULAR MOLE.
<b>Traci Milkanen Had Skin Cancer</b>	"IT LOOKED LIKE A LITTLE SPECK OF MUD OR SOMETHING. EVERYONE KEPT SAYING YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR NECK."
<b>[MILL-CAN'-EN ]</b>	TRACI MILKANEN IS LUCKY, HER MELANOMA WAS CAUGHT EARLY.

<p><b>Leslie Christenson, M.D.</b> <b>Mayo Clinic Dermatologist</b></p>	<p>“IF WE CATCH IT EARLY, IT’S AN EASY TREATMENT.”</p>
	<p>DR. LESLIE CHRISTENSON, A MAYO CLINIC DERMATOLOGIST SAYS DOCTORS CAN SURGICALLY REMOVE MELANOMAS AND SURROUNDING SKIN TO MAKE SURE NO CANCER CELLS ARE LEFT BEHIND. BUT IF THE CANCER IS DIAGNOSED LATE, IF IT HAS SPREAD, THEN TREATMENTS ARE NOT AS EFFECTIVE. BECAUSE TRACI HAS HAD A MALIGNANT MELANOMA, SHE’S AT RISK FOR DEVELOPING ANOTHER. SO SHE’S METICULOUS ABOUT SUNSCREEN, PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND ABOUT SEEING HER DOCTOR FOR REGULAR SKIN CHECKS.</p>
	<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION, TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT <a href="http://MAYOCLINIC.ORG">MAYOCLINIC.ORG</a>. I’M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.</p>

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