

# **Dermoscopy**

## **What is dermoscopy?**

Dermoscopy is the use of a skin surface microscope to examine skin spots. It uses ten times magnification which enables colours and structures to be seen.

## **Why have an examination by someone trained in dermoscopy?**

The use of dermoscopy has shown to increase the accuracy of diagnosing melanomas. One study showed that Doctors who were trained in and used dermoscopy picked up 79%. Another group of Doctors used naked eye examination only to examine patients and they picked up only 54% of Melanomas that were present <sup>(1)</sup>. Melanomas are more likely to be identified and cut out if dermoscopy is used, which can be life- saving. Dermoscopy is also useful in diagnosing the commonest skin cancer BCCs (Basal Cell Carcinomas).

## **What is involved in being examined?**

An examination is done in around 5-10 minutes examining the skin whilst dressed in your underwear.

(1) Argenziano et al. Dermoscopy improves accuracy of primary care physicians to triage lesions suggestive of skin cancer. J Clin Oncol. 2006 Apr 20;24(12):1877-82.