

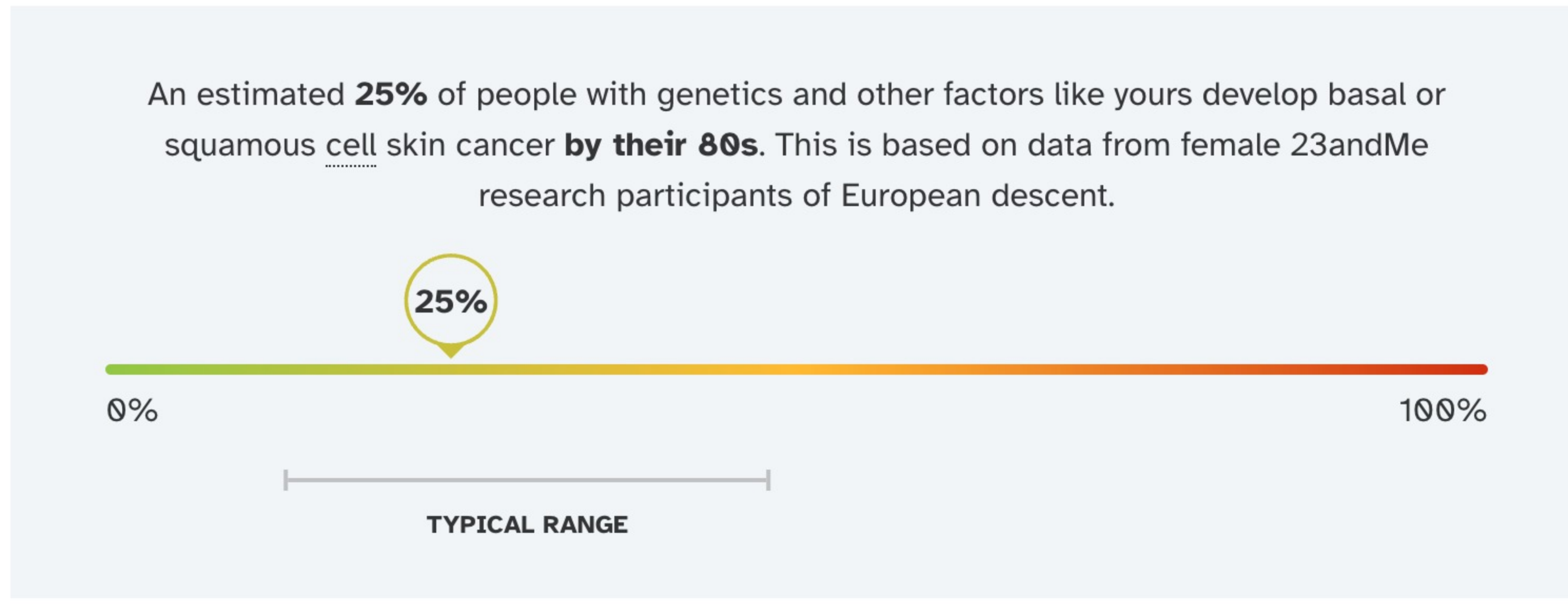
Skin Cancer (Basal and Squamous Cell Carcinomas)

POWERED BY 23ANDME RESEARCH

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) are two common types of skin cancer. Many cases can be prevented by protecting the skin from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays. When these cancers are detected at an early stage, they can usually be treated successfully.



Jamie, your genetic result is associated with a **typical likelihood** of developing basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.



This estimate is based on currently available data and may be updated over time.

Ways to take action

Basal and squamous cell skin cancers are the most common types of skin cancer in the U.S., but they are often preventable. Your overall likelihood of developing them also depends on other factors, including lifestyle. Experts agree that protecting your skin from harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays can help lower the chances of developing skin cancer, especially for those with lighter skin.

- Wear sunscreen products labeled "broad spectrum" year-round while outdoors, even when it's cloudy
- Wear protective clothing while outside (including a hat and long sleeves)
- Seek shade when possible, especially during peak sun hours (typically between 10am and 4pm)
- Avoid tanning beds



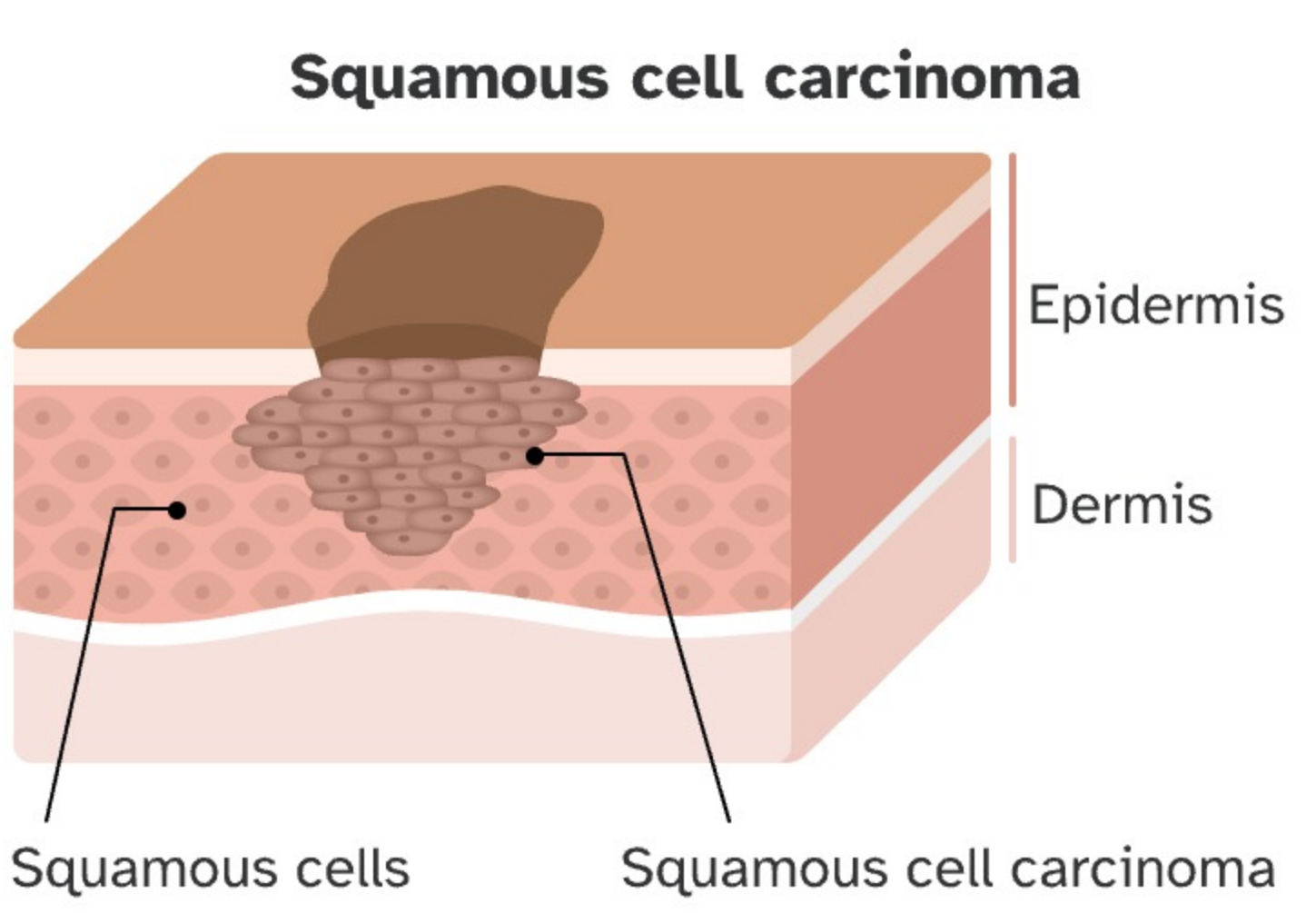
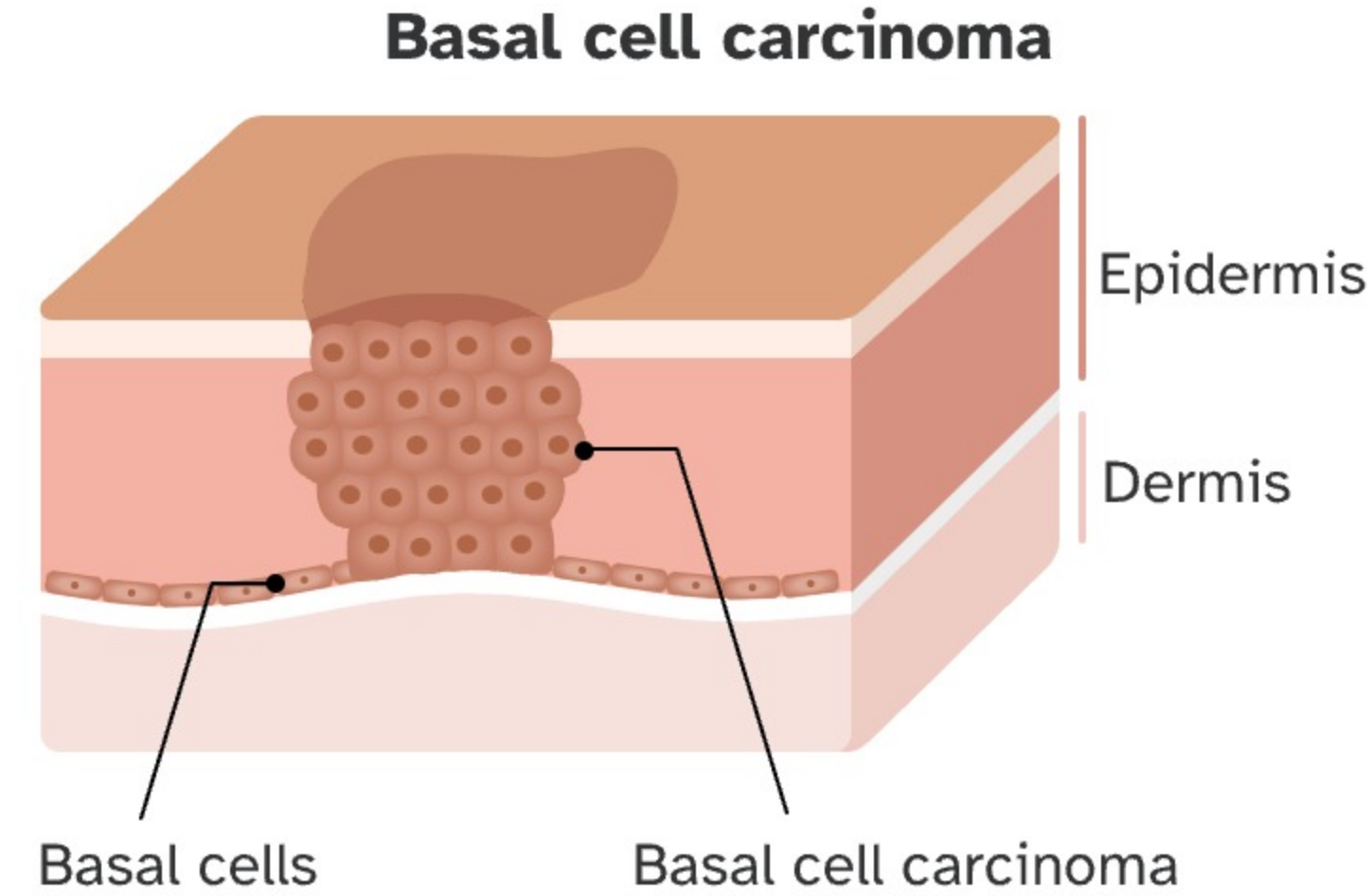
In addition, when caught in earlier stages, basal and squamous cell skin cancers are highly treatable. Experts recommend performing a **skin self-exam** about once a month. It's important to keep an eye on your skin and talk to a healthcare professional like a dermatologist if you notice any changes, including new or changed moles, bumps, or sores. You can also talk to a doctor about whether getting a regular skin check from a dermatologist is right for you.

[Learn more from the American Cancer Society](#)

About basal and squamous cell carcinomas

What are basal and squamous cell carcinomas?

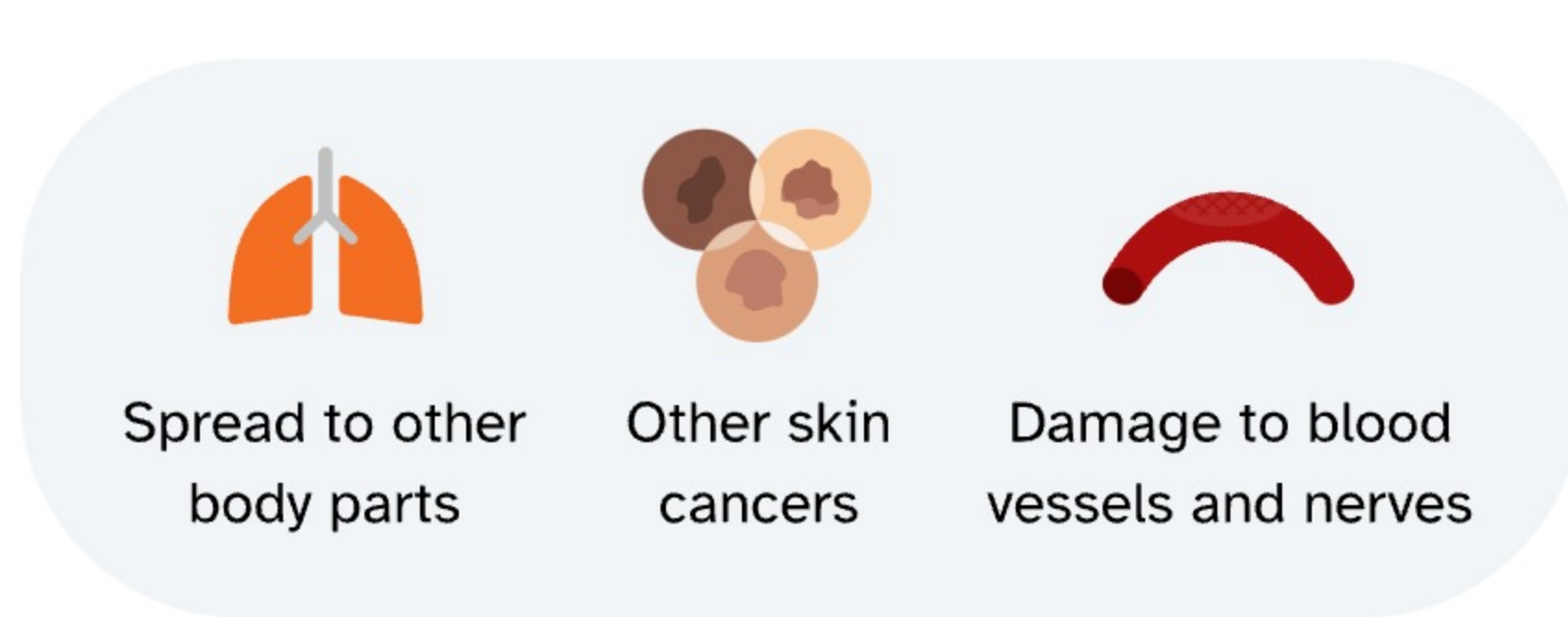
Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) are the two most common types of skin cancer. They begin in basal cells and squamous cells, which are found in the outer layer of the skin. The most common cause of basal and squamous cell skin cancers is too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light from the sun (including through clouds and glass windows). In addition, UV light exposure from tanning beds and sun lamps increases the chances of developing basal and squamous cell skin cancers.



BCC and SCC usually develop on areas of skin that get a lot of sun exposure. For BCC, the most common locations include the face, head, and neck. For SCC, the most common locations include the scalp, backs of the hands, ears, and lips. Both types of skin cancer can also develop on other parts of the body. For example, among people with darker skin, SCC commonly appears on the legs and other areas that typically get less sun exposure. Basal and squamous cell skin cancers can vary in appearance, but the first sign is typically a bump, growth, or sore that doesn't heal.

How can basal and squamous cell carcinomas impact your health?

When BCC and SCC are detected at an early stage, they can usually be treated successfully. But untreated BCC and SCC can grow deep into the skin and damage nearby tissues, including blood vessels and nerves. Squamous cell carcinoma and, more rarely, basal cell carcinoma can also spread to other parts of the body, which can cause complications. In addition, people who have had either basal or squamous cell skin cancer have an increased chance of recurrence and developing other skin cancers as well.

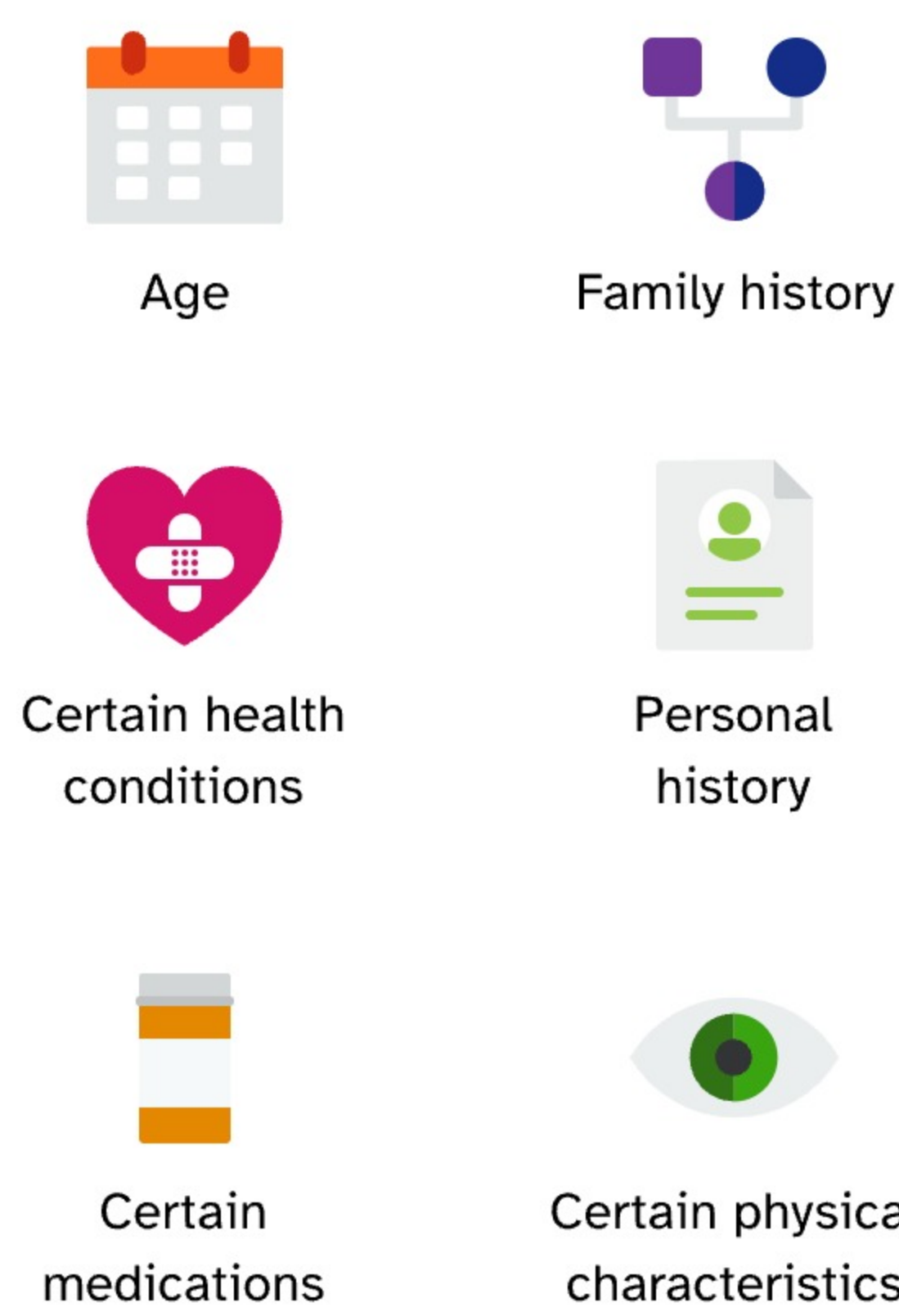


This is why it's so important to protect your skin, get familiar with your skin's appearance, and perform regular **skin self-checks**. Talk to a healthcare professional like a dermatologist if you notice any unusual changes.

Other factors that can impact your chances of developing basal and squamous cell carcinomas

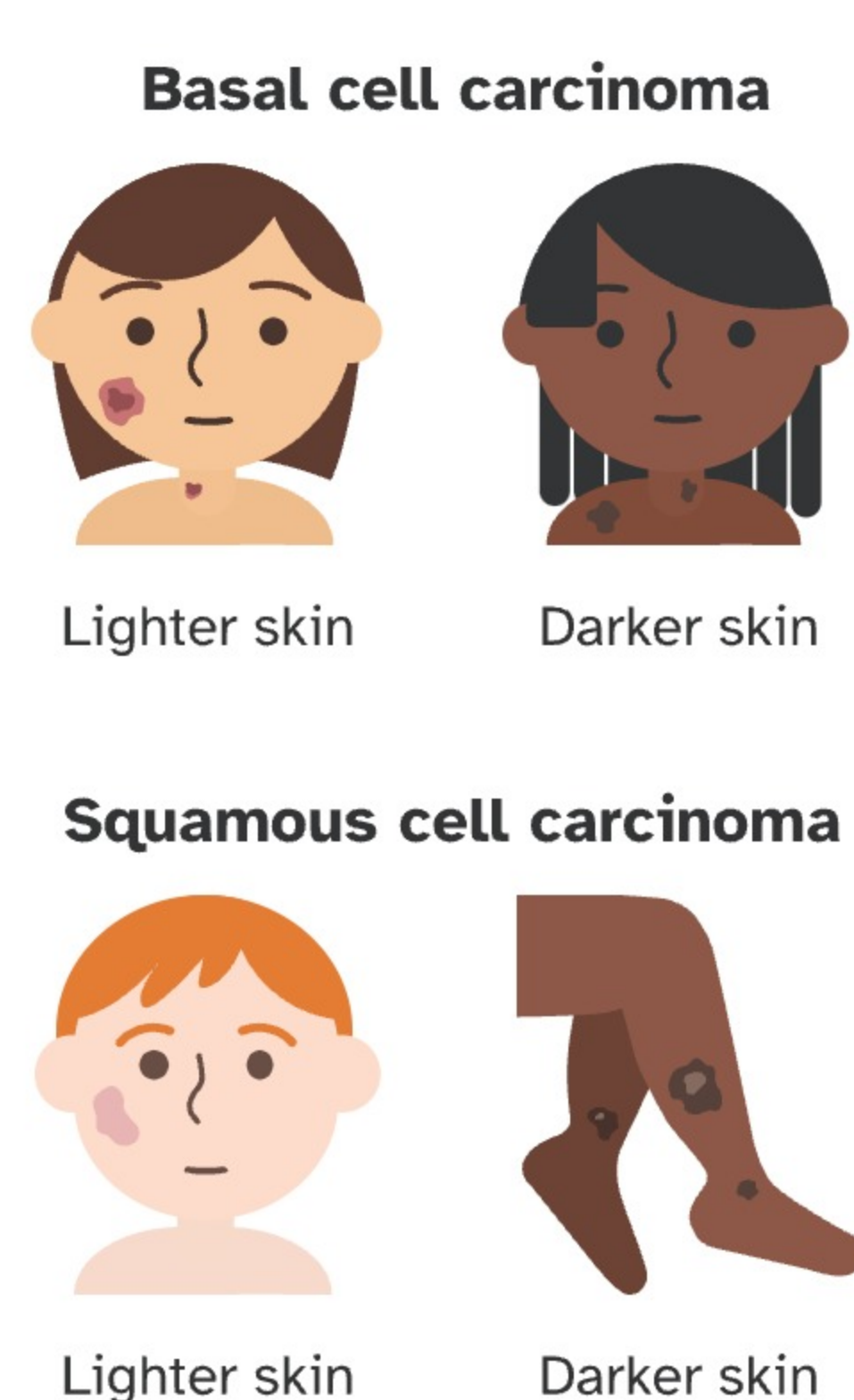
Basal and squamous cell skin cancers are the two most common types of skin cancer in the U.S. Every year, more than 3 million Americans are diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma, and more than 1 million Americans are diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma. Besides genetics and sun exposure, some factors that can increase a person's chances of developing basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma include:

- Age (basal and squamous cell skin cancers become more common as people get older, but they can also affect younger people)
- Personal or family history of skin cancer
- A weakened immune system (caused by certain health conditions or medications)
- Certain physical characteristics (people with light skin, blue or green eyes, blonde or red hair, or freckles are more likely to develop these cancers)



How does skin color play a role?

While people with lighter skin are more likely to develop basal and squamous cell skin cancers, people with any skin color can develop these and other skin cancers. And people with darker skin are more likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer at a later stage, when it can be harder to treat. This may be due to multiple factors, including that patients and healthcare providers may be less familiar with the typical appearance and location of skin cancer on skin of color. For example, people with darker skin are more likely to develop squamous cell skin cancers on locations that get less sun exposure, such as the legs. Learn more about skin cancer in people of color from the [American Academy of Dermatology Association](#).



Keep in mind

This report **does not diagnose** basal cell carcinoma or squamous cell carcinoma. **Consult with a healthcare professional** if you are concerned about your likelihood of developing basal or squamous cell carcinoma, have a personal or family history of basal or squamous cell carcinoma, or before making any major lifestyle changes.

<p>If you have already been diagnosed with basal or squamous cell carcinoma by a healthcare professional, it is important to continue any treatment plans that they prescribe, including lifestyle modifications.</p>	<p>The likelihood of developing basal and squamous cell carcinomas also depends on other factors, including lifestyle, age, and family history.</p>	<p>This report does not account for every possible genetic variant that could affect your likelihood of developing basal or squamous cell carcinoma and it does not include rare variants that have a large impact on the likelihood of developing basal or squamous cell carcinoma.</p>	<p>This report is based on a genetic model created using data from 23andMe research participants. It has not been clinically validated and should not be used to make medical decisions.</p>
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[How we got your result](#)