

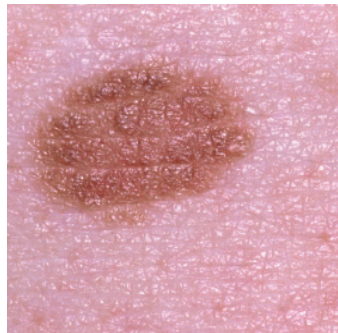
# Identifying cancerous moles

Moles are small, coloured spots on the skin. Most people have them and they're usually nothing to worry about unless they change size, shape or colour.

## Signs of harmless moles



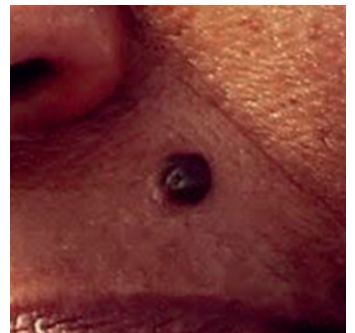
Most harmless moles are round or oval-shaped, with a smooth edge.



They can be flat or raised and may feel smooth or rough.



Sometimes they have hair growing from them.

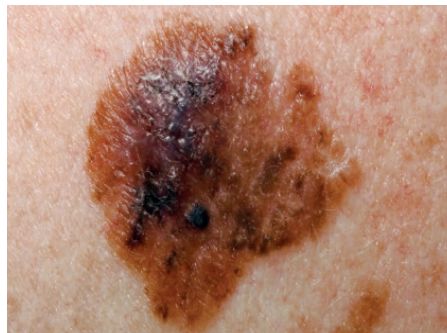


They are usually darker on brown and black skin.

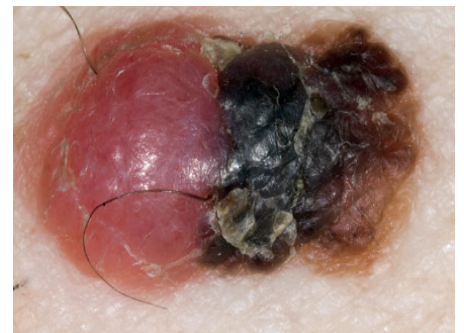
## Signs a mole could be cancerous



Melanomas may change colour over time or have more than 2 colours.



They often have uneven edges.



Sometimes they may bleed, itch, or be crusty or raised.

### Visit your GP if:

- you have a mole that's changed size, shape or colour
- you have a mole that's painful or itchy
- you have a mole that's inflamed, bleeding or crusty
- you have a new or unusual mark on your skin that has not gone away after a few weeks

**Finding a melanoma as early as possible can mean it's easier to treat**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/moles/>