

# Merkel Cell Carcinoma

- **Definition**

- Rare, aggressive cutaneous malignancy with high risk for metastases

- **Epidemiology**

- Light skin color
- Older demographic
- Males > females
- More frequently seen in immunosuppressed patients

- **Pathogenesis**

- Merkel cells - located in the epidermis
- Exposure to UV radiation plays a role in the etiology of MCC

- **Clinical Features**

- rapidly growing, firm, non-tender, shiny, flesh-colored or blue/red nodule (1-2 cm in size)

- **Diagnosis**

- Lesion features can be remembered by the acronym AEIOU
  - A- asymptomatic
  - E- Expanding rapidly
  - I- Immune suppression
  - O- Older demographic (> 50 years of age)
  - U- UV-exposed skin
- Diagnosis confirmed by biopsy / histopathological analysis

- **Treatment** -- Staging work-up of the primary tumor, lymph nodes, and distant metastasis