



Skin Examinations Offer Important Answers

Skin cancer and chronic dermatitis prove to be common health conditions among former DOE construction workers.

Construction materials can cause serious skin problems for construction workers. That's why the BTMed exam includes a skin assessment.

Skin Cancer

Non-melanoma skin cancer includes squamous cell carcinoma and its precursors (the actinic keratoses) as well as basal-cell carcinoma. Non-melanoma skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in areas of the world with a light-skinned population. Occupational exposure to UV radiation is high in construction work; recent studies report that persons working in outdoor occupations are twice as likely to develop non-melanoma skin cancer as indoor workers.

Health Risks From Wet Cement

Working with wet portland cement can cause caustic burns, referred to as cement burns. Cement burns may result in blisters, dead or hardened skin, or black or green skin. In severe cases, these burns may extend to the bone and cause disfiguring scars or disability.

Skin contact with wet portland cement can cause inflammation of the skin, referred to as *dermatitis* or *contact dermatitis*. Signs and symptoms of dermatitis include itching, redness, swelling, blisters, scaling, and other changes in the normal condition of the skin.

There are many different tasks that involve the use of portland cement. Examples of trades who may be

exposed to the dangers of wet portland products include bricklayers, carpenters, cement masons, concrete finishers, laborers, plasterers, tile setters, terrazzo workers, ready-mixed concrete truck drivers, bucket operators, and those involved in pouring and finishing work.

If you have questions about providing the skin exam contact a program nurse at 1-888-464-0009.

By the Numbers

30,353

Total Screenings

22,021

Completed Initial Screenings

8,332

Completed Rescreens

1,175

CT Scans



Dermatitis, also known as Contact Dermatitis, can cause skin conditions that should not be ignored.

CT Scan Findings Prove Life-Saving

More Than 1,000 Scans Completed

BTMed launched its Early Lung Cancer Detection Program (ELCD) in 2011 and since then has provided more than 1,000 scans. The scan findings have exceeded the number of cancers that we expected to find. So far, we have detected *eleven lung cancers* (six Stage 1 and five Stage 4), three renal cancers, one throat cancer, and one esophageal cancer. Plus, we've found other things like asbestosis, coronary artery calcification, aortic aneurysms, adrenal masses, thyroid nodules, and emphysema (COPD).

CT scans are offered at five locations across the country:

Doctor's Hospital (Augusta, Ga.)

University of Cincinnati Medical Center (Cincinnati, Ohio)

University of Tennessee Medical Center (Knoxville, Tenn.)

Kadlec Medical Center (Richland, Wash.)

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance (Seattle, Wash.)

For more information about the CT Scan Program contact BTMed at 1-800-866-9633



CT Scan Helps Former Hanford Worker Overcome Cancer

Roger Tool sat alongside his wife, Ellen, just a month shy of their 49th anniversary and already looking to “sail way past” their 50th so they could “enjoy all the milestones with their kids and their grand kids.” But these years of enjoyment, of well-earned retirement, almost never happened.

Tool spent a quarter of a century working in the active areas in one of the most dangerous sites in the country: the U.S. Department of Energy's Hanford Reservation. It was one of the original World War II sites, built in 1942 to produce plutonium. Back when Tool worked out there in the 1970s, he and his co-workers “knew hardly nothing” about the dangers behind the material they were exposed to.

“I was up to my elbows in chemicals year round,” Tool explained. “There was even a pint jar of Mercury that you'd take out and play with cause you didn't know anything different about it.”



Roger and Ellen Tool enjoy a walk on a beautiful day.

As part of BTMed's Early Lung Cancer Detection program, Tool met the eligibility criteria and accepted the invitation even though he felt healthy. The scan, however, detected suspicious nodules in his lungs.

Tool returned for a three-month follow-up that found a change in the nodules. Little did he know, those nodules were lung cancer. Tool went in for surgery to remove a cancer known for its tendency to show no symptoms until it's too late.

“Had Roger not done the screening,” Ellen said, “this would have grown. This would have impacted his life. This would have taken his life.”

Tears formed in Ellen's eyes as she imagined the future that was almost stripped from them. “This is going to give us a lot more years to enjoy our retirement and the fun things we want to do.” Ellen looked to her husband. “To enjoy each other. To travel. Just to,” she smiled, “enjoy life.”