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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

Pediatric Melanoma

Though rare, instances of the deadly skin cancer melanoma are increasing in children. All parents should be able to spot an unusual mole on their child, particularly parents of fair-skinned children who burn easily or have more than 50 moles on their bodies. An unusual mole is one that is asymmetrical, meaning one half does not mirror the other. The border may be irregular or notched. The mole may be more than one color, particularly mottled shades of blue, black, tan, brown, gray, red, and pink. The size of the mole could be bigger than an eraser, and it might be raised or elevated off the skin. When in doubt, have your pediatrician take a look.

Hint: While childhood melanoma may be rare, monthly skin exams and awareness of their moles is an important—and possibly life-saving—habit to teach your children.

If you should ever notice a growth or unusual spot on your child's body, speak to the pediatrician. Be sure to mention any unusual changes and concerns. For additional information about melanoma screening and prevention, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.

www.midcoastpediatricspa.com