

PATIENT INFORMATION

AI mole mapping

Total body photography,
dermoscopy and expert review

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Sevenoaks & Oxted

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This booklet explains AI-assisted mole mapping and how to look after your skin between appointments.

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01 Why you have this booklet

You've been given this booklet because you are having, or thinking about, mole mapping with Mr Kumar.

It explains what happens at your appointment, how the images are used and how to check your own skin.

It won't answer every question, and it isn't a substitute for talking things through with Mr Kumar, so please note down anything you want to ask and bring it to your next appointment. There is space for your questions at the back.

02 What mole mapping is

Mole mapping creates a detailed photographic record of your skin. High-resolution photographs of your whole body are taken in a series of standard poses, along with magnified dermoscopic images of individual moles.

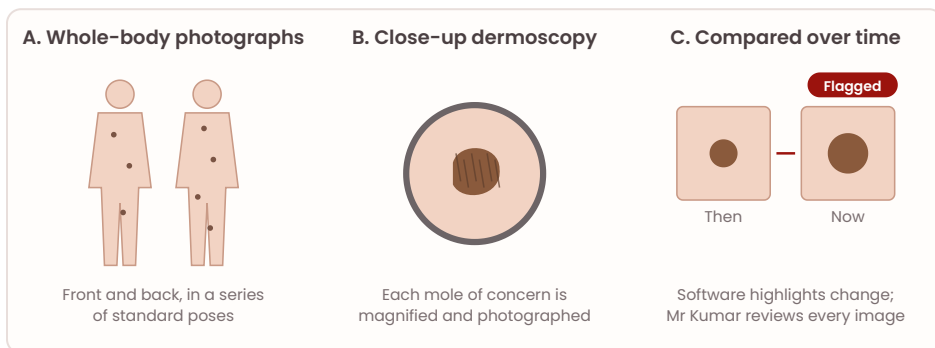


Figure 1. Whole-body photographs, dermoscopy and comparison over time. A simplified drawing for guidance only.

AI-assisted software helps to highlight moles that look unusual or have changed since your last visit. Mr Kumar reviews every image and makes the final assessment, as the software supports rather than replaces clinical judgement.

At follow-up visits, new images are compared with the previous ones, so small changes can be picked up early, when skin cancer is most treatable.

03 Before you decide

You're likely to be a good candidate if:

- ✓ you have many moles (more than about 50) or unusual moles
- ✓ you have a personal or family history of melanoma
- ✓ you have fair skin that burns easily, or a history of sunburn

04 Other options

You don't have to have this procedure. Depending on what bothers you, the alternatives include:

- a single mole check with dermoscopy
- regular self-examination and GP review

05 Getting ready

There is no special preparation. Please:

- ✓ **remove nail varnish and make-up** if you have moles in those areas
- ✓ **avoid fake tan** for a week beforehand
- ✓ **wear simple underwear**, as you will be photographed in it

06 The procedure

You undress to your underwear in a private room while the photographs are taken, then any moles of concern are examined with a dermatoscope. The appointment takes about 45 to 60 minutes. Mr Kumar then goes through the results with you. If a mole needs a closer look, it can be removed and sent to the laboratory.

07 Recovery

There is no recovery time. Most people return every six to twelve months so their images can be compared.

Check your own skin every month

- a new mole that looks different from your others
- a mole that changes in size, shape or colour
- an irregular edge or several colours
- itching, bleeding or crusting
- a sore that doesn't heal

08 Risks and complications

Most people recover without any serious problems. But like any procedure it carries risks, and you should understand them before you decide. Where reliable published figures exist, we've given an approximate, rounded figure. Where they don't, we've used these standard terms:

COMMON

more than 1 in 100

UNCOMMON

1 in 100 to 1 in 1,000

RARE

1 in 1,000 to 1 in 10,000

VERY RARE

fewer than 1 in 10,000

Mole mapping itself has no physical risks.

Your own risk may be higher or lower depending on your health, whether you smoke, and the details of your procedure. Mr Kumar will talk through what applies to you.

Other complications

• A mole being missed **UNCOMMON**

No test is perfect. Keep checking your skin and don't wait for your next appointment if something changes.

• Removing a mole that turns out to be harmless **COMMON**

Sometimes the only way to be sure is to examine a mole under the microscope.

Complications of the anaesthetic

Local anaesthetic is very safe. It stings briefly as it goes in. Rarely it causes light-headedness, and very rarely an allergic reaction. If you have a general anaesthetic or sedation, your anaesthetist will discuss the risks with you separately.

09 Further treatment

Occasionally a further procedure is needed to refine the result, for example if healing leaves an area uneven or a scar needs revising. This isn't usually considered until things have fully settled, often 6–12 months afterwards. The cost of any further procedure isn't automatically included in your original fee; the clinic team can explain our policy.

10 Photographs and records

Photographs are taken before and after your procedure and kept in your medical records. They help Mr Kumar plan your treatment, record how things looked beforehand and follow your progress. This is standard good practice. If we ever want to use your photographs for teaching, publication or marketing, we will ask you separately and specifically, and saying no won't affect your care in any way.

11 Costs and insurance

If you are insured, please check your cover with your insurer before your procedure. Insurers need Mr Kumar's full name, **Siva Kumar Veeramani**, and his GMC number, **6114710**. If you are paying for yourself, you'll receive a written quote first. Self-pay consultations cost £250 and follow-ups £150.

12 Your decision

This is your decision and you have the right to:

- ✓ take as long as you need to decide, and bring someone with you to appointments
- ✓ say no to treatment, or withdraw your consent at any stage, without having to explain why and without it affecting any other care you receive
- ✓ ask for a second opinion from another surgeon.

13 Your personal information

Your personal and medical information is kept securely and used in line with UK data protection law (the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018). It's only shared with the people directly involved in your care, or where the law requires it, unless you give your consent for anything else.

14 Who to contact, and when to get help urgently

If you have any questions or worries, please contact the clinic during opening hours on **020 3026 9695** or **info@theuclinic.com**.

Contact us promptly if you have

- a mole that has changed since your appointment
- a new mole that looks different from your others
- a sore that hasn't healed after 3 weeks

Out of hours, your emergency contact number will be given by the treating hospital or clinic.

15 What happens next

Before your procedure, Mr Kumar will go through this information with you again and take your written consent. If anything in this booklet has raised a question, or if anything changes with your health, your weight or your medication before then, please let us know.

My questions

Note down anything you want to ask Mr Kumar and bring it to your next appointment.

Notes

Notes

Notes

Questions or worries?

Please contact the clinic during opening hours. Out of hours, your emergency contact number will be given by the treating hospital. In an emergency, call 999.

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