



# **Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists**

**Course outline:**  
Benign and Precancerous Lesions

2026

# 1. Course information

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## 1.1 Course aims

The Australasian College of Dermatologists Position Statement on Skin Cancer in Australia states that Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of melanoma in the world. The vast majority of this is treated within general practice. Crucial to management of skin malignancy is accurate diagnosis. Dermoscopy allows the detection of clinical features invisible to the naked eye and has been well shown to increase the diagnostic accuracy of users.

The Benign and Precancerous Lesions course aims to provide General Practitioners with the skills and knowledge to distinguish a range of benign and precancerous lesions that are often identified by patients as skin lesions of concern and if required provide patients with a recommended treatment plan.

The Benign and Precancerous Lesions Certificate is facilitated by leading Dermatologists. It is delivered in an online learning mode with self-paced modules. You will be required to complete quizzes, case scenarios, a case study and a final online exam.

Clinical scenarios are used extensively in the course. These will ensure that participants have a wide range of clinical experience on which to draw upon when managing their own patients.

## 1.2 Learning objectives Outcomes

At the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and describe cutaneous changes that may be associated with Benign and Precancerous Lesions
2. Critically analyse clinical cutaneous observations and/or investigations to diagnose Benign and Precancerous Lesions
3. Plan and develop treatment and management regimens appropriate to Benign and Precancerous Lesions
4. Assess when to refer a patient on to a specialist dermatologist

### 1.3 Learning and teaching activities

The course is organised into seven components.

- **Pre-learning activities:** are completed prior to starting the course and include a self-rating of your current skills and knowledge about benign and precancerous lesions.
- **Self-paced online modules:** There are five self-paced online modules. At the end of each module participants will need to complete the Topic Scenarios which consist of case studies with T/F or multiple choice questions.
  1. Benign epithelial tumours
  2. Benign melanocytic lesions
  3. Benign appendageal tumours
  4. Benign tumours of the dermis and subcutaneous fat
  5. Precancerous lesions
- **Case Discussion Forum:** This is a forum where students list differential diagnosis, treatment and management options on various case studies. Lecturers and other students can provide feedback for discussion. This is an interactive course component.
- **Webinars:** 1 live webinar is held as part of this course. Attendance or watching the recording are mandatory. Attendance is preferred, as it is an opportunity to interact with your lecturer and colleagues. 2 further recordings are provided for viewing.
- **Case Study Submission:** In approximately 500 – 600 words students need to submit a case from their practice that is relevant to benign and precancerous lesions. They need to present:
  - Clinical finding of the case
  - Any investigations
  - Description of the management
  - Photos of the clinical case (if possible)
  - Summary of the case – therefore a reflection of the main learning points; how the patient was managed, rationale as to why this particular patient was managed in this way or in retrospect what could you have done differently and any other significant learning points. Please include a reference to a literature review.
- **Final Assessment:** The final assessment for the subject is an online 2-hour examination.
- **Post-course Self Reflection:** completed after starting the course and includes a self-rating of your acquired skills and knowledge about benign and pre-cancerous lesions.

Clinical scenarios are the main teaching and assessment tool across all learning modes of the course. They illustrate the essential content in the online modules. They are an integral part of the face-to-face workshop and are used to assess the application of knowledge and skills in the end-of-topic tests and final examination.

## 2. Course outline, structure and dates

This course is delivered over a 16 - week period and is self-paced.

The course consists of a total of approximately 40 hours of student effort. Here is a general overview of how long items may take:

- 2 hours orientation/planning/pre- and post-reflection exercises
- 26 hours online learning including case scenarios
- 2 hours live webinars
- 3 hours Case Discussion Forum
- 2 hours Case Study
- 2 hours Final Online Exam
- 3 hours additional reading

### CPD Hours

	Total Hours	Educational Activities	Performance Review Activities	Outcome Measurement Activities
RACGP CPD Hours	40	31	7	2
ACRRM PDP Hours	40	31	7	2

Benign skin lesions can be classified according to their origin within the skin and associated structures. The five topics within this module have been organised in the following structure.

1. Benign Epithelial Tumours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Epidermal Naevi</li><li>• Seborrheic Keratoses</li><li>• Skin Tags</li><li>• Epidermal Cysts</li><li>• Pilar Cysts</li><li>• Porokeratoses</li></ul>
2. Benign Melanocytic Lesions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freckles and Lentigines</li><li>• Cafe au lait macules</li><li>• Congenital melanocytic naevi</li><li>• Benign Melanocytic naevi (moles)</li><li>• Dysplastic melanocytic naevi</li><li>• Blue naevus</li><li>• Spitz naevus</li><li>• Naevus spilus</li></ul>
3. Benign Appendageal Tumours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sebaceous glands (sebaceous gland hyperplasia and sebaceous adenoma)</li><li>• Hair follicles</li><li>• Sweat or apocrine glands syringoma</li></ul>

4. Benign Tumours of the Dermis and Subcutaneous Fat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dermatofibroma</li> <li>• Hypertrophic and Keloid scars</li> <li>• Chondrodermatitis nodularis helices</li> </ul>
5. Premalignant or Precancerous Tumours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solar keratosis</li> <li>• In situ squamous cell carcinoma,</li> <li>• Erythroplasia, leukoplakia</li> </ul>

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## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment tasks

Topic	Assessment Task	Time	Weighting
1. Benign Epithelial Tumours	30 minutes (not timed) 20 T/F or MCQ 7 scenarios/ 2 attempts	At end of topic	80% pass mark 2% weighting
2. Benign and Melanocytic Lesions	30 minutes (not timed) 20 T/F or MCQ 7 scenarios/ 2 attempts	At end of topic	80% pass mark 2% weighting
3. Benign Appendageal Tumours	30 minutes (not timed) 20 T/F or MCQ 7 scenarios/ 2 attempts	At end of topic	80% pass mark 2% weighting
4. Benign Tumours of the Dermis	30 minutes (not timed) 20 T/F or MCQ 7 scenarios/ 2 attempts	At end of topic	80% pass mark 2% weighting
5. Precancerous Lesions	30 minutes (not timed) 20 T/F or MCQ 7 scenarios/ 2 attempts	At end of topic	80% pass mark 2% weighting
Case Discussion Forum	Reply to at least 6 cases	Throughout enrolment	20% weighting
Webinars	2 live webinars per Trimester	See Important Dates section	20% weighting
Case Study Submission	500 words on relevant BPL case	No later than 2 weeks before Trimester end	75% pass mark 20% weighting
Final Online Exam	100 MCQ 2 hrs to complete – timed 2 attempts to pass	After all topics completed	75% pass mark 30% weighting

### 3.2 Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

Be sure to provide a list of references whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research to inform your own work. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Please read the '[ACD Academic Misconduct policy.](#)' This policy is available on the ACD Website.

## 4. Readings and resources

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Please download the separate Recommended Resources List in the course information area. You can also access the resources within each separate module.

## 5. Administrative matters

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Please see our Terms and Conditions [here](#).

For further information or questions about the course, please contact [enquiries@dermatologyaustralia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@dermatologyaustralia.com.au).

The Australasian College of Dermatologists complies with the requirements of the Federal Privacy Act and the National Privacy Principles. A full copy of the College's privacy policy is available [here](#).

# Acknowledgements

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- Dr Benjamin Carew
- Dr Daniel Hewitt
- Dr Simon Lee
- Dr Victoria Mar
- Dr Jim Muir
- Dr Adam Sheridan
- Associate Professor Peter Soyer

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