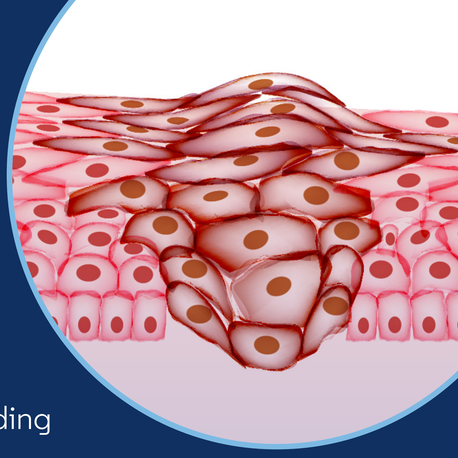
Defining High-Risk CSCC: A Clinical Checklist



CSCC that is at high risk of recurrence and/or progression can be identified using **clinical and pathologic features**

Early identification of high-risk features is critical for guiding follow-up, surveillance, and multidisciplinary evaluation

Clinical Checklist: Features Associated With High-Risk CSCC*[1-6]

Tumor Characteristics

- ☐ Diameter ≥2 cm
- ☐ Depth of ≥2 mm or beyond subcutaneous fat
- ☐ Poorly differentiated histology
- ☐ Poorly defined clinical borders
- ☐ Rapid growth
- ☐ Adenosquamous or sarcomatoid subtypes

Anatomic Location

- ☐ Head
- ☐ Neck
- ☐ Hands
- ☐ Feet
- ☐ Pretibial area
- ☐ Anogenital area

Neural Involvement

- ☐ Perineural invasion (especially large-caliber nerves)
- ☐ Neurologic symptoms

Disease History

- ☐ Recurrent tumor
- ☐ Site of prior RT or chronic inflammation

Bone Involvement

- ☐ Bone invasion

Patient Factors

- ☐ Immunosuppression

Lymphatic or Vascular Involvement

- ☐ Lymphovascular invasion

Clinical Interpretation:

- Presence of **one or more high-risk features** should prompt closer follow-up
- Multiple high-risk features indicate **increased risk of recurrence or progression**
- **Consider multidisciplinary evaluation** for patients with multiple or high-impact features

THE dermatologist

*The features defining high-risk vary across guidelines; this list integrates criteria from multiple sources, using the most conservative definition for each feature.

CSCC, cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma; RT, radiation therapy.

REFERENCES

1. Karia PS, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(4):327-334.
2. Amin MB, et al, eds. *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*. 8th ed. New York, NY: Springer; 2017.
3. Beach SC, et al. *Dermatol Ther (Heidelb)*. 2025;15(8):2015-2029.
4. Dessinioti C, et al. *Cancers*. 2022;14(14):3556.
5. Chergui M, et al. *Curr Oncol*. 2025;32(12):689.
6. Trager MH, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2026;94(3):914-923.