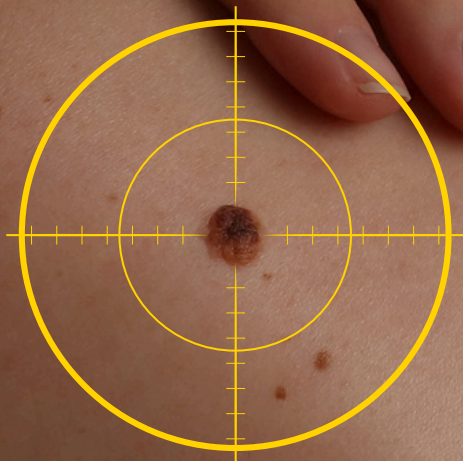


SKIN CHECKS



Dr Andrew Albantow

Skin Cancer Doctor

BBiomed, BMBS, DCH, FRACGP, Professional Certificate Skin Cancer Medicine

Dr Andrew spent his early years in Altona North. He completed his medical degree in 2013 at Deakin University in Geelong. Dr Andrew has done further extensive training in skin cancer medicine.

He is a dedicated skin cancer doctor and is available for:

- skin cancer checks
- spot checks
- review of any previous skin lesions with the use of clinical photography for monitoring

We are delighted that Dr Andrew has decided to take over the management of Port Melbourne Skin Cancer Clinic and recently sat down with him to ask him a few questions.

Q: Welcome Andrew, what was it like growing up in Altona North?

A: I have very fond memories of growing up in Altona North. My father was heavily involved with the Kingsville Football Club, where I used to watch games and I remember swimming lessons in Newport every Thursday night. When I was 4 years old, I got lost at the Altona Gate Shopping Centre and walked 20 minutes all the way home by myself.

Q: Most doctors have worked in various places, often interstate or overseas. What has been your medical journey?

A: I have had an array of experiences throughout my medical journey. I moved down to Geelong for a couple of years to attend medical school. As a medical student I went to Mombasa, Kenya, for 10 weeks and attended the local hospital there. I assisted with minor surgical procedures, deliveries of babies and general medical ward duties. It certainly opened my eyes as to how fortunate we are to have western medicine readily available. My junior years as a doctor were completed through Eastern Health which included time at Box Hill, Maroondah, Angliss and Bairnsdale Hospitals. I spent a considerable amount of time doing Paediatrics in the hospital as in the early days I wanted to be a Paediatrician. I also spent a short period of time working with the Home Doctor Service attending to people in their homes for various ailments all across Melbourne. I completed General Practice training in 2018 and have worked in General Practice for 8 years before finding my passion and now work exclusively in finding and treating skin cancers.

Q: Why did you choose Port Melbourne Medical to consult from?

A: I became aware of the clinic while having lunch in Port Melbourne. I was initially drawn to the charm of the area, and then upon meeting my colleagues and experiencing my first day, I knew that I wanted to continue to work here.

Q: We have to ask – who is your footy team?

A: I am a lifelong St. Kilda supporter. I started watching the footy back in Waverley Park with the likes of Tony Lockett and Robert Harvey. I have learned to be very patient as I am still waiting for the Saints to win a premiership.

Q: What made you choose to work in the skin cancer field?

A: Skin cancer is so common in Australians and finding them early can make an enormous difference in people's lives. I personally know families who have been significantly affected by melanoma and I am passionate about finding them early in my patients when they are essentially curable.





Q: What are the benefits of having a skin check during Winter?

A: Although we associate skin cancers with the sun, skin cancers and sun damage can occur at any time of the year. Skin cancers are usually due to long term UV exposure, especially when you are a child. This means that they don't only come up during Summer when most people think about getting a skin check. We also have some treatments for skin cancers and pre-cancerous lesions, and during the course of treatment people should avoid the sun. This means they are often best used during Winter.

Q: Please explain to our patients what the Masters of Medicine - Skin Cancer and Australian College of Cutaneous Oncology is and what skills you obtained in doing it?

A: The Masters of Medicine through University of Queensland is a 2-year comprehensive course on detecting and managing skin cancer. There is no doubt that doing this further study has allowed me to detect subtle early melanomas that could be easily missed. I have had advanced training in surgically treating skin cancers. The Cutaneous Oncology course is an intensive course that advanced my skills in treating skin cancers on the nose, ear and face. It is very important for all doctors to be aware of their own skills and limitations. I work closely with several plastic surgeons that I will refer to when required, but I am also experienced with treating skin cancer using a variety of techniques. I will closely tailor treatment in conjunction with my patients after discussion about all of the options.

Q: What do I need to know about having my skin checked?

A: I strive to provide a comfortable environment for people to have their skin checked. A skin check involves removing clothes down to underwear and going head to toe to check your spots. It is best done without makeup, nail polish or fake tan. If there are any spots of concern, we can often do biopsies on the spot.

Q: How do you keep up to date with the latest information and is there anything new we should be aware of?

I attended the Skin Cancer Australasia conference on the Gold Coast this year which always has the most cutting-edge developments in the skin cancer space. Recently there was a large study done that showed Caucasian patients with rosacea are at 5 times higher risk of invasive melanoma. I will now be telling anyone who has been diagnosed with rosacea that they should come in for a skin check as it may save their life.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

A: As we are in the depths of Winter, I am currently learning how to snowboard. You can find me at Mt Hotham and later this year in Queenstown, New Zealand. I will most likely be the person that is constantly falling over.

I can usually be found enjoying different cuisines around Melbourne, discovering Melbourne's live music scene and hiking around Australia.

Dr Andrew is available to provide skin cancer care to patients at Port Melbourne Medical on:

Tuesday (8am-4:30pm)

Friday (8am-4:30pm)

For current available sessions please visit PMM's booking tab via our website or the HotDoc App. We encourage patients to register with HotDoc as a fast and secure platform to manage appointments at PMM.