

Twenty-five year old Kristie Owen of Pasadena purchased a membership to a local tanning salon when she was asked to be a bridesmaid in her best friend's wedding. She never spent much time in the sun and wanted to get a tan before the wedding.

She had only been tanning for a month when she noticed that a black mole had appeared on the top of her foot. Because summer was approaching and she knew she would be wearing sandals she wanted to have the mole on her foot removed for cosmetic purposes.

Because Kristie works in a pharmacy she knows the local physicians and chose to visit North Arundel Hospital Dermatologist Jane Chew, M.D. After the first consultation, Dr. Chew agreed that the mole on Kristie's foot should be removed but also recommended that a mole on Kristie's shoulder be removed as well. Two appointments were made two weeks apart to remove the moles. The mole on the shoulder was removed first and the results were benign. After the second mole was removed, Kristie was asked to return to Dr. Chew's office. She wasn't as lucky the second time and Dr. Chew informed her that she had Stage I melanoma. "I am so glad I wanted that mole removed or the skin cancer would have went undetected,"

remarked Kristie. "I was only having it removed because it was a new mole and I didn't like the way it looked and it possibly saved my life."

Dr. Chew believes that Kristie is very smart and very lucky. "Kristie was smart to have had the mole examined and very lucky that the Melanoma was caught at an early stage," stated Dr. Chew. "Many people think that they can't get skin cancer on their feet or from a small

mole but Kristie's case proves that is not the truth."



Dr. Chew then removed the surrounding area around the mole leaving Kristie with 10 stitches. Over the next year, Kristie will visit Dr. Chew every three months and next year will visit her every six months for follow-up care.

Kristie believes everyone should visit a dermatologist even if it is for something small. "I am so lucky that I wanted that mole removed. I never would have thought that I would have skin cancer especially because I didn't spend a great deal of time in the sun," Kristie stated. "I would recommend to everyone who may have a question about a mole or discoloration to have it checked immediately. It won't hurt and it may save a life."