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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# How to Take Pictures of Your Scalp for Your Healthcare Provider

This information will help you take pictures of your scalp to show your healthcare provider.

Sending clear pictures will help your healthcare provider see how you're healing. They can also see if there are any problems with the area. You may need to have someone help you take these pictures.

## Take Pictures from 5 Different Views

Take your pictures from 5 different views to help your healthcare provider see and understand the size of the area. Follow the guidelines in this section to take your pictures.

### Picture 1

Hold the camera, or have someone hold the camera, about 2 feet (0.6 meters) away from your face. Look directly at the camera. Your healthcare provider should be able to see your whole face in the picture (Figure 1).

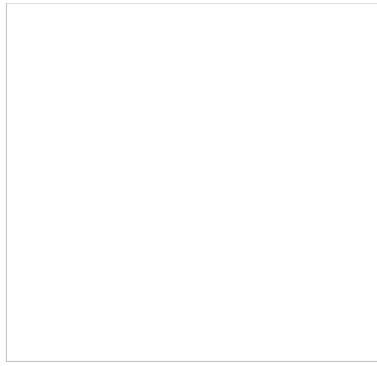


Figure 1. Picture of your face

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## **Picture 2**

Turn your head down so you're looking at the floor. Hold the camera, or have someone hold the camera, so it's facing the top of your scalp. Your healthcare provider should be able to see the whole top of your scalp in the picture (Figure 2).

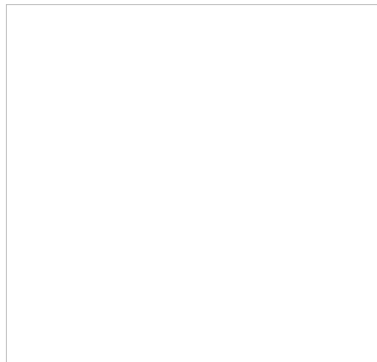


Figure 2. Picture of the top of your scalp

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## **Picture 3**

Turn your head to the left. Hold the camera, or have someone hold the camera, about 2 feet away from your

head. Your healthcare provider should be able to see the whole left side of your scalp in the picture (Figure 3).

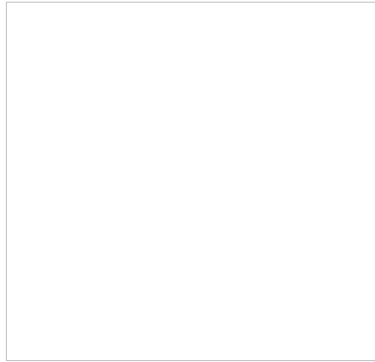


Figure 3. Picture  
of your left side

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## **Picture 4**

Turn your head to the right. Hold the camera, or have someone hold the camera, about 2 feet away from your head. Your healthcare provider should be able to see the whole right side of your scalp in the picture (Figure 4).

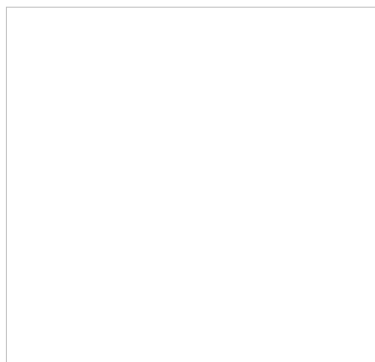


Figure 4. Picture  
of your right side

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## Picture 5

If you don't have someone helping you, you may need to set up a tripod or camera stand for this picture. You will also need to put your camera on a self-timer

Have someone stand behind you or stand in front of your tripod or camera stand with your back facing the camera. Turn your head up so you're looking at the ceiling and take a picture of the back of your scalp. Your healthcare provider should be able to see the top and back of your scalp in the picture (Figure 5).

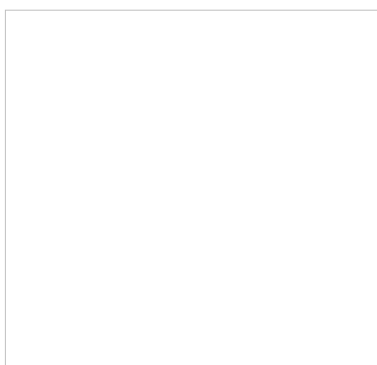


Figure 5. Picture of the top of your scalp

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## Tips for Taking Pictures

The tips in this section will help you take better pictures to share with your healthcare provider.

## **Set up the background**

- Find a place to take the picture where there will be no clutter in the background.
- A solid-color background will help your camera focus so your pictures are clear.
  - If you don't have solid-color background, you can hang up a solid-color bed sheet or cloth and stand in front of it.

## **Plan the lighting**

- Set up the tripod or camera stand, if you're using one.
- Turn on the flash on your camera. The flash will give you the light you need.
- Make sure light is shining directly on the area you're taking a picture of. If something is in the way of the light, it can cause shadows in the picture.
- Make sure that you, or the person helping you, can hold the camera so that it doesn't cast a shadow on the area you're taking a picture of.

## **Take the picture**

- Hold the camera flat and pointed directly at the area you're taking a picture of.
- Hold the camera still while taking the picture.

- If you're using your phone, look at the area you're taking a picture of on the screen. Tap the screen to make your camera focus.
- When you're ready, take the pictures. Remember to take all the views your healthcare provider asked for.
- Check each picture to make sure they're clear. If any of your pictures look blurry or don't show the right area, take that picture again. Don't try to edit the picture.

## **Send Your Pictures Using MyMSK**

You can send your pictures to your healthcare provider using MyMSK, our patient portal. If you don't have a MyMSK account, visit [my.mskcc.org](https://my.mskcc.org) or call 646-227-2593. You can also or call your doctor's office for an enrollment ID to sign up. For more information, watch the video *How to Enroll in MyMSK: Memorial Sloan Kettering's Patient Portal* ([https://sandbox18.mskcc.org/pe/enroll\\_mymsk](https://sandbox18.mskcc.org/pe/enroll_mymsk)).

### **Using the MyMSK app**

To send pictures using the MyMSK app on your smartphone or tablet:

1. Make sure your pictures are saved on your smartphone or tablet.

2. Tap the MyMSK app icon. Log in to your MyMSK account.
3. Tap “Messages” at the bottom of your screen.
4. Tap “New” in the upper right corner of your screen. Choose “General Office Communication.” If your care team told you to use a different message type, choose that one instead.
5. Tap “To (Office of).” Choose your doctor’s name.
6. Tap “Subject.” Choose “Questions about my treatment.” If your care team told you to use a different subject, choose that one instead.
7. Tap the “+” icon next to “Add an Attachment.” Choose “Photo.” Tap the photos to attach to your message. Tap “Done” in the upper right corner of your screen.
  - MyMSK only lets you send a certain number of pictures at a time. You may need to send more than one message to share them all with your healthcare provider.
8. In the text box, write a message to your healthcare provider. When your message is ready, tap the paper airplane symbol in the upper right corner of your screen.

## Using the MyMSK website

To send the pictures using MyMSK on your computer:

1. Save your pictures to your computer. One way to do this is to use your phone to email the pictures to yourself, open the email on your computer, and save the pictures.
2. Open your internet browser. Type in [my.mskcc.org](https://my.mskcc.org) and log in to your MyMSK account.
3. Find the Messages area on your homepage. Click “New Message.”
4. In the Compose New Message menu, click “Ask a general question.” If your care team told you to use a different message type, choose that one instead.
5. Click “Type or select physician’s name.” Choose your healthcare provider.
6. Click “Subject.” Choose “Questions about my Treatment.” If your care team told you to use a different subject, choose that one instead.
7. In the text box, write a message to your healthcare provider.
8. Click “Add attachment(s)” under the text box. Open the folder where your picture is saved and click on your picture. Then click the “Open” button. Repeat



this step for each picture.

- MyMSK only lets you send a certain number of pictures at a time. You may need to send more than one message to share them all with your healthcare provider.

9. When your message is ready, click the “Send” button.

The messages you send using MyMSK are encrypted. That means no one but your MSK care team can see them.

If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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