Why see a board-certified dermatologist?

A dermatologist is a doctor who specializes in treating the:

- Skin
- Hair
- Nails
- Mucous Membranes (e.g., lining inside the mouth, nose, and eyelids.)

Dermatologists diagnose and treat more than 3,000 different diseases and conditions. Some of the most common are:

- Acne
- Psoriasis
- Age spots
- Rashes
- Eczema
- Rosacea
- Hair loss
- Skin cancer
- Melanoma
- Vitiligo
- Melasma
- Psoriasis
- Rashes
- Rosacea
- Skin cancer
- Vitiligo
- Melasma
- Acne
- Psoriasis
- Age spots
- Rashes
- Eczema
- Rosacea
- Hair loss
- Skin cancer
- Melanoma
- Vitiligo
- Melasma

Dermatologists see patients of all ages — from newborns to people older than 100 years of age.

Becoming a dermatologist requires many years of education.

A person must successfully complete:

- College, earning a bachelor’s degree: 4 years
- Medical school, becoming a medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO): 4 years
- Internship: 1 year
- Dermatology residency program: 3 years (minimum)

How do I know if my dermatologist is board-certified?

Look for FAAD after your dermatologist’s name.

* FAAD stands for Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology.

Check your dermatologist’s website to verify that he or she has been certified by the American Board of Dermatology, the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Be wary of certifications from other organizations

A board-certified dermatologist:

- Has completed medical school, an internship and an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education-accredited dermatology residency program.
- Has a license to practice medicine.
- Has passed the exams given by the American Board of Dermatology, the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology, or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Find a board-certified dermatologist near you at aad.org/findaderm.