

UV - RADIATION: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON MALIGNANT
MELANOMA IN GENERAL POPULATION AND A MODEL OF OCCUPATIONAL
STUDY ON RESEARCH WORKERS

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ABSTRACT

Malignant melanoma of the skin has increased rapidly in the last decades, and the problem of its etiology has caused considerable concern. In Italy a threefold increase in the mortality rate of melanoma has been observed in the period 1955-1978. An epidemiological study has been conducted in the city of Rome and the incidence of melanoma has been determined retrospectively for the years 1970-79. All public and private health structures of the city were involved. A case was defined as patient resident in Rome with histological diagnosis of melanoma performed between 1970 and 1979. In the years 1970-72 the average incidence rate per year was 0.8 per 100,000 inhabitants both for males and females; while in 1977-79 the average rate was up to 2.0 per 100,000 for males and 2.4 for females (age standardized rates). The annual increase in incidence was 19% for males and 25% for females. Age specific incidence rates were quite similar in both sexes. In the aetiology of melanoma the authors suggest that one of the major factors that plays a role in the increase of melanoma is sun exposure. In order to analyse the occupational exposure to UV, particularly to workers of research referred, monitoring and control was planned. In the National Council of Research (CNR) we decided to screen the main kinds of sources used in relation to the number of workers involved, their exposure time and so on. In the Poster we will show the results of the epidemiological study and of the screening with the subsequent consideration.