

Appendix S1.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Constitutional pigmentation characteristics

Information about hair colour (light, dark or red) and eye colour (light or dark) was collected. Skin colour was evaluated according to a 7-grade scale based on the skin colour on the inside of the arms (white fairly light, light brown, medium brown, beige, dark brown, almost black). Pattern of reaction to sun exposure was assessed with the question: "What happens to your child if he/she plays on the beach without sun protection?" and answered with one of these items: he/she gets very tanned, usually tans, usually red and sometimes tans, always red, not known and, always wears sunscreen. Moreover, the child's usual skin reaction to sunlight was registered and classified as: always burns, almost always burns but sometimes gets a little tanned, almost always gets tanned and never burns. This question was added to the previous one to avoid a possible bias due to parents' guilt in front of the doctor if they said they did not systematically apply sun-block to their children.

Regional naevi counts

Naevi were counted over the following 7 specific anatomical areas: head (excluding scalp), trunk, swimwear-covered area (underpants for both sexes), arms, hands, legs and feet.

Sun exposure and sun protection habits

In order to calculate the total number of hours of sun exposure, 2 different year periods were contemplated (April–June and July–September, both from 10.00 h to 18.00 h). For the April to June period, the following activities were considered: wearing summer or sports clothes (T-shirt and shorts/skirt) walking, at school (playground and physical education class) and during outside extracurricular activities. From July to September, the following activities were considered: hours spent walking outdoors with summer or sports clothes walking, at school and during outside extracurricular activities and hours with swimwear at the pool and/or beach. Sun exposure during the short days of the October to March period was not taken into account because, in our region, located in the west and inner side of Catalonia, the number of sunny days during these months is low.

Regarding the use of sunscreen, parents were asked about its use in certain situations: for a walk outdoors wearing T-shirt and/or shorts and on the beach/swimming pool. Frequency of reapplication of sunscreen and the sun protection factor were also recorded.

Number of sunburns

Number and intensity (without or with blisters) of lifetime sunburns were registered.