



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

RISK FACTORS FOR CUTANEOUS MELANOMA AMONG LATIN PATIENTS FROM MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA

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Introduction: Current knowledge about risk factors for melanoma derives primarily from studies performed in White populations from the United States, Australia, and Europe, but few from Latin America populations.

Objective: To identify risk factors for cutaneous melanoma among Latino patients from Medellín, Colombia.

Materials and Methods: Retrospective case-control study with a 2:1 paired ratio. Patients were evaluated at Aurora Centro Especializado en Cancer de Piel in Medellín, Colombia, between 2014 and 2017. Epidemiological, clinical, histopathological and dermatoscopic characteristics were evaluated. Bivariate analysis was performed using the chi square and Fisher's exact test. Multivariate analysis using a multiple logistic regression model was performed to specific variables.

Results: 187 patients met the inclusion criteria. 62 cases with a confirmed histopathological diagnosis of melanoma, and 125 controls with any diagnosis excluding skin cancer. The average thickness for the melanoma cases was 2.3mm (SD 2,2). The majority of cases were of the superficial spreading subtype (23%). The evaluated patients showed at least one modifiable (54%) and non-modifiable risk factor (26%). The bivariate analysis demonstrated that the presence of dysplastic nevi increased the risk for melanoma up to 2 times (OR=2.56, CI de 95%=1.14-5.73). The multivariate analysis showed that intermittent sunexposure and sunburn history, increased the risk up to 4 times (OR 4.17, 95% CI 1.82 - 9.57), and 5 times (OR 5.63, 95% CI 2.16 - 14.62), respectively. The use of two or more sun protection methods was found to be a protective factor (OR = 0.19, 95% CI 0.077 - 0.499).

Conclusions: This is the first study in the Colombian population to evaluate risk factors for melanoma using a case-control study. It provides evidence about the importance of environmental risk factors in this population; suggesting that primary prevention efforts remain an essential component in skin cancer prevention in the Colombian population.

