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Argenziano: “Dermatologists can no longer do without dermatoscopy”

Dermatologists need dermatoscopy. It is an unreplaceable tool, just like the stethoscope for the intern or the otoscope for the otolaryngologist. “It is a tool, that not only helps us to diagnose better, but saves us a series of useless biopsies that we would usually do for benign lesions – declares Giuseppe Argenziano, Professor at the Campania University – in this way, our diagnosis are more accurate, saving useless biopsies and increasing our capacity of detecting early melanoma”.

Nowadays, people with the personal highest risk of melanoma are the ones with light skin, many moles, or that have melanoma history in their family. But anyone could be at risk. “Actually, people more at risk are a minority, compared to the total amount of melanomas – explains Argenziano – we could all have melanoma, considering that 60 to 70 per cent of melanomas show in people with no related-risk factors. For this reason, we must be aware of the risks, do check-ups and report any changes of our skin to the dermatologist”.

To get melanoma, and in an advanced-stage with high death probability, are the people over-50. “The highest death-rates concern generally men over-50, because they are less aware of melanoma risks, and because they usually do not notice changes, or do when it is too late. Women are more careful and for this reason get checked-up earlier” concludes Argenziano.

It is then advisable for everyone to do periodic check-ups with a dermatologist and point out any changes as soon as possible.



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