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Skin Cancer as an occupational disease? ESCF warns against a higher skin cancer risk for outdoor workers



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At the height of almost 3,000 meters on the top of Germany's highest mountain the European Skin Cancer Foundation invited to its press conference on the subject of "Skin cancer as an occupational disease".

Our experts informed about the danger of UV-light which causes damages of the skin. Children and people who often spend time outdoors are particularly at risk.

In Germany about 2,5 million employees are exposed to a natural work-related UV-radiation - and therefore have a higher risk to develop skin cancer. Nevertheless, the connection between the occupational UV-exposure and the risk of skin cancer is still underestimated. According to "Deutsche Berufskrankheiten-Verordnung (BKV) the recognition of skin cancer as an occupational disease is not yet possible. Epidemiological studies show now a relevant connection: People who often work outdoors have a higher risk of squamous cell carcinoma, a type of non melanoma skin cancer.



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“For outdoor workers the risk to get non melanoma skin cancer is two to three times higher compared with people who do not work outdoors”, warns PD Dr. Martin Radespiel-Tröger of the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg. That is an important criterion for the recognition of skin cancer as an occupational disease.

“Regardless of the establishment of new occupational morbidity for skin cancer due to a work-related UV-exposure, prevention measures are urgently needed for employees with a higher risk of skin cancer”, demands Prof. Dr. med. Thomas Diepgen, medical director of the department of clinical social medicine of the University of Heidelberg. Changes in behavior should focus on avoiding the direct exposure of UV-radiation between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., wearing suitable clothes, applying sunscreen regularly and finding the shadow.

See more at:

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/newsdetails/article/skin-cancer-as-an-occupational-disease.html>

Judgement: Skin Cancer is an occupational disease for roofers



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If a roofer gets benign skin changes, this illness must be recognized as an occupational disease. The Social Court Aachen agreed with a roofer who got sick after he has worked outdoors without sun protection for 40 years. In this case, the insurance association refused the recognition as an occupational disease.

The judges opposed the ruling. Due to the scientific proven higher risk of skin cancer for outdoor workers there is no reasonable doubt for the connection between disease and work. (Az. S 6 U 63/10)

Source: dpa

See more at:

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/newsdetails/article/urteil-hautkrebs-bei-dachdeckern-berufskrankheit.html>

Awareness campaign seeks to win newcomers for early detection

If skin cancer is early detected it is almost always curable. Everyone should use the chance to go for a free skin cancer screening on a regular basis. A reasonable handling with the sun from an early age can reduce the risk to develop skin cancer.

The “Euromelanoma-Week” is an example for a very important aim of German dermatologists - to inform the public, in kindergardens and schools about sun protection. The emphasis is on the information about risk factors, early detection and about prevention.



Since the introduction of the skin cancer screening as a performance of statutory health insurance companies about one third of the 44 million insured people used the service. During the “Euromelanoma-Week” the dermatologists also want to reach out to people who have not attended the skin cancer screening so far.

See more at:

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/newsdetails/article/awareness-campaign-seeks-to-win-newcomer-for-early-detection.html>

Skin cancer treatment has doubled



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The number of skin cancer treatment in hospitals has doubled during the last ten years in Berlin. This is pointed out by the Techniker Krankenkasse (TK). The insurance company refers to the database of the Federal Statistical Office Germany. In 2000, there were 1800 and in 2010 already 3600 hospital admissions. Nevertheless, only a third of the TK-insured people in Berlin over 35 years have acquired the skin cancer screening in 2009 and 2010.



“The earlier skin cancer is detected, the greater the chances to cure it”, says Susanne Hertzner, Head of the TK in Berlin. More and more young people are diagnosed with skin cancer, that is why the TK decided to extend the examination: Every two years TK-insured people over 20 years are able to go to the skin cancer screening.

The general health care insurances offer a free skin cancer screening for people over 35 years. But the best prevention against skin cancer is a careful use of the sun and the avoidance of sunburns particularly among young people.
Source: Press Release of the Techniker Krankenkasse (www.tk.de)

See more at:

<http://www.escf-network.eu/en/welcome/news/newsdetails/article/hautkrebsbehandlungen-verdoppelt.html>

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