

Welcome to the seventeenth edition of QSkin News



It is a great pleasure to bring you the 17th update from the QSkin Team. We are very grateful for your ongoing support of the study, and are happy to report great progress over the past 12 months.

The QSkin study continues to contribute knowledge on the causes of skin cancer, and research findings that contribute to international efforts to control skin cancer. This 17th issue of QSkin news provides an update on study activities, including a quick summary of our latest scientific papers, and the arrival of a new student.

We hope that you enjoy the newsletter. Your comments and feedback are always very welcome.

Professor David Whiteman AM and Associate Professor Catherine Olsen, on behalf of the entire QSkin Team



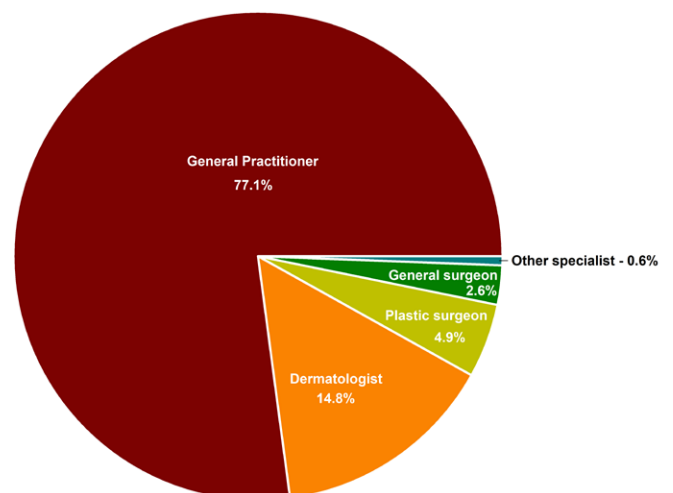
QSkin in the News: Most melanomas in Australia are diagnosed by GPs

While melanoma is common in Australia, little is known about how people newly diagnosed with a melanoma are managed, and by whom.

We examined treatment patterns for QSkin participants diagnosed with a melanoma between the time of study recruitment in 2011 and 2019. We found that more than 75% of melanomas were diagnosed and managed by General Practitioners (GPs) in primary care. About 15% were managed by Dermatologists, 5% by plastic surgeons, and the remainder by general surgeons and other specialists. About half of the melanomas were diagnosed through an excisional biopsy, 33% by shave biopsy, and 10% by punch biopsy. Our findings highlight the need to continue skin cancer training programs for GPs, and provide valuable information that may assist in revising melanoma management guidelines.

Source: Pandeya N, Olsen CM, Shalit MM, Dusingize JC, Neale RE, Whiteman DC. The diagnosis and initial management of melanoma in Australia: findings from the prospective, population-based QSkin study. *Med J Aust* 2023, 218(9), 402-407. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37041657/>

Practitioner type for first new melanoma



New QSkin Papers

Risk factors associated with a second diagnosis of melanoma

While most people who develop melanoma will only ever have one melanoma, some people will go on to have a second diagnosis. The risk factor profile for those people who go on to have multiple melanomas is not well understood. We therefore compared risk factors for one vs multiple melanomas using data from the QSkin cohort.

We found that risk factors for melanoma were mostly the same for people who had only one melanoma compared with people who had more than one. However, we found that people who had multiple melanomas were more likely to have lots of moles on their skin, and to have a high genetic predisposition to melanoma. We also found that people who had multiple melanomas were also more likely to have a history of other kinds of skin cancer, including basal cell carcinomas (BCC) or squamous cell carcinomas (SCC).

Our findings support the need for even greater prevention efforts in people at high risk of melanoma, to prevent them from having more melanomas.

Source: Olsen CM, Pandeya N, Dusingize JC, Neale RE, MacGregor S, Law MH, Whiteman DC for the QSkin Study. Risk factors for first and second primary melanomas: prospective cohort analysis in a high incidence population. *JAMA Dermatol* 2023, 159(1), 37-46. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36416830/>

Trends in treatment rate for keratinocyte cancers in Australia

The commonest types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinomas (BCC) and squamous cell carcinomas (SCC), and they exact a heavy toll on the Australian community. At least one in three people will be diagnosed with a BCC or a SCC during their lifetime, and the costs to the community of treating so many skin cancers are enormous.

We examined trends in the numbers of claims to Medicare for procedures related to diagnosing and treating BCC and SCC in Australian men and women between 2012 and 2021. The figure to the right shows the rate of change in BCC and SCC treatments for each age group. Among people under 55 years, the rates were negative: that is, skin cancer incidence is declining. The positive rates in older Australians means that incidence is still rising in those age groups.

The 'Slip Slap Slop' skin cancer prevention campaigns likely contributed to the decline, although other factors may be at play, including a trend of younger Australians spending more time indoors.

Source: Olsen CM, Pandeya N, Neale RE, Whiteman DC. Diverging trends by age in treatment rates for keratinocyte cancers in Australia, 2012 to 2021. *Med J Aust* (in press).

Other QSkin papers

Dusingize JC, Olsen CM, Law MH, Pandeya N, Neale RE, MacGregor S, Whiteman DC, Ong J. Cholesterol-lowering genetic variants and risk of skin cancer. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 2023, 37(6), e792-e795. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36662597/>

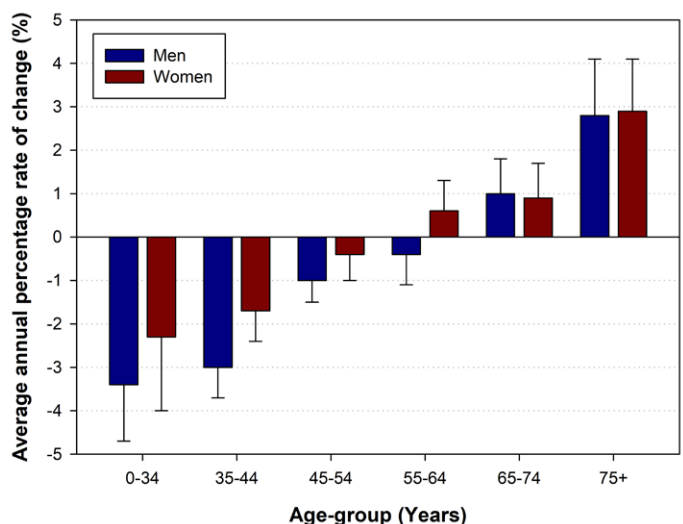
Dusingize JC, Law MH, Seviiri M, Olsen CM, Pandeya N, Landi MT, Iles MM, Neale RE, Ong JS, MacGregor S, Whiteman DC. Genetic variants for smoking behaviour and risk of skin cancer. *Sci Rep* 2023, 13(1), 16873. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37803080/>

Pandeya N, Huang N, Jiyad Z, Plasmeijer E, Way M, Isbel N, Campbell S, Chambers DC, Hopkins P, Soyer HP, Whiteman DC, Olsen CM, Green AC. Basal cell carcinomas in organ transplant recipients versus the general population: clinicopathologic study. *Arch Dermatol Res* 2023, 315(4), 771-777. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36283992/>

Pandeya N, Isbel N, Campbell S, Chambers DC, Hopkins P, Soyer HP, Jiyal Z, Plasmeijer EI, Whiteman DC, Olsen CM, Green AC. High-risk prognostic tumour features of squamous cell carcinomas in organ transplant recipients: comparison with general population. *JAMA Dermatol* 2023, 159(8), 854-858. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37314794/>

Lindsay D, Whiteman DC, Olsen CM, Garvey G, Gordon LG. Variations in the use of healthcare services for individuals diagnosed with invasive melanoma in Queensland, Australia: A benefit incidence analysis. *Med J Aust* 2023, 219(9), 417-422. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37807891/>

Change in the rate of excisions for confirmed BCC/SCC, by age group





New student

Dr Chloe Hang
University of Queensland

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Chloe Hang to the QSkin team. Chloe is a General Practitioner with Fellowships in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine (ACCSM). Chloe will be starting her Master of Philosophy studies in the Quarter 2, 2024. Chloe's program of research will focus on the epidemiology of melanoma, using data from the QSkin cohort.

One highly topical issue that Chloe will study concerns whether or not melanoma screening leads to the detection of melanomas that would otherwise never have come to clinical attention, a phenomenon known as 'overdiagnosis'. Within the linked QSkin datasets, Chloe will compare screened vs. unscreened populations and identify possible differences in the tumour characteristics of the new melanomas diagnosed (e.g. the thickness of the melanoma and other markers of active growth, and the genetic mutational profile).

QSkin researchers to host major international conferences

Next year, QSkin researchers will be hosting two conferences in Brisbane: the 6th International Conference on UV and Skin Cancer Prevention and the 5th Global Advances and Controversies in Skin Cancer.

This will be the first face-to-face meeting dedicated solely to preventing skin cancer since 2018, and there is huge excitement building for this event from the international skin cancer community.

The organisers are determined to design a program that delivers maximum impact: scientifically, socially, politically.

Themes to be addressed at the conference include:

- Epidemiology and burden of skin cancer
- Sunscreens – new developments
- Social media – how it can influence sun-safe behaviour
- Skin of colour – what do doctors and patients need to know to stay safe?
- Sun safe policies in schools, workplace, sports, recreation
- Measuring Ultra-Violet Radiation – including wearables and environmental monitoring
- The impact of climate change on skin cancer rates
- Shade, fashion, design

The Conference will be opened by the Minister for Health, and will also feature the premiere of a new feature film about skin cancer. And there will be plenty of exposure for the QSkin research teams. Stay tuned for more updates.



Feedback?

If you have any comments or updated information (e.g. change of address), please contact us:

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