

## **Oral Presentation**

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### **Screening for skin cancer: current epidemiological evidence**

#### Introduction

Skin cancer is the most common cancer but also one of the most preventable. Despite many melanoma/skin cancer prevention campaigns and varied intervention strategies over the last decades, the incidence of melanoma and nonmelanoma skin cancer is still rising in fair-skinned populations, and decreases in melanoma mortality are modest and limited to few countries.

#### Methods

Interventions aiming at primary or secondary prevention of melanoma/skin cancer are reviewed. Relevant endpoints for these interventions are identified and their impact assessed.

#### Results

Impact of skin cancer prevention has been more often monitored and more favourable in the short than long-term. Long-term evaluation of sustained prevention campaigns remains difficult since the interaction of several factors can conceal or alter the long-term impact of interventions. Examples are presented and the interaction of concomitant factors is discussed in the interpretation of incident and mortality trends from melanoma.

#### Conclusion

Evidence suggests that secondary prevention (early detection) has to date been more efficient than primary prevention. Longer-duration interventions and improved validity of study designs are needed. If general population-based screening appears too expensive to be achieved, screening of high-risk individuals is recommended.