

Assessment of Sun-Safety Behaviors and Knowledge of Sun Protection and Skin Cancer in the Farmworker Population of South Texas



Shaadi Khademi, MD
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Background

- Literature review suggests that more research is needed to document sun-protection behaviors and barriers among Hispanic adults engaged in occupations that place them at increased risk for sun exposure
- The Hispanic population is more likely to believe their risk for skin cancer is below average and less likely to take preventive measures compared to more fair-skinned individuals
- The incidence of melanoma has increased among US Hispanics by over 11% from 1992 to 2011
- Hispanics are more likely to be diagnosed with later stage and larger melanomas increasing morbidity and mortality
- ~25% of the 2012 US Hispanic workforce were employed in industries that involve significant amounts of occupational UV exposure
- Previous studies have looked at melanoma risk factors, perceived skin cancer risk and knowledge of skin cancer, outdoor work, and sun-protective behaviors in Hispanic individuals that mainly worked in construction and landscaping and lived primarily in California, with a lesser percentage that lived in Texas
- This study is the first
 - to identify reported barriers to various sun-protective behaviors
 - to identify willingness to seek medical care for a new or worsening skin lesion or a mole that changes over time
 - to identify potential barriers to seeking medical care for a new or worsening skin lesion or a mole that changes over time
 - to study the specific data above in Hispanic agricultural workers in South Texas
 - to look at an almost exclusively Spanish-speaking Hispanic US population

Specific Aims

- 1) Identify sun-protective behaviors in the form of protective clothing/PPE and sunscreen use in agricultural workers
- 2) Identify barriers to proper sun-protective behaviors in the form of protective clothing/PPE and sunscreen use in agricultural workers
- 3) Identify their knowledge of sun safety and skin cancer and potential misconceptions
- 4) Identify their willingness to seek medical care for a new or worsening skin lesion or a mole that changes over time
- 5) Identify potential barriers to seeking medical care for a new or worsening skin lesion or a mole that changes over time

Activities/Outputs

- IRB Application was submitted and approved in May 2016
- In June 2016, during residency rotation in South Texas, 100 surveys were administered at two different field sites with the help of two promotoras from Nuestra Clinica Del Valle. A few were recruited from Nuestra Clinica Del Valle farmworker clinic patients. \$10 Walmart gift cards were given to each participant.
- Data collection now complete
- Planned data entry into Qualtrics on iPad in October 2016
- Planned data analysis with the help of Sara Shepherd, statistician at UT Health Northeast Occupational Health Sciences Department in October-November 2016
- Planned presentations as follows:
 - 1) Graduate Seminar Course in November 2016
 - 2) AOHC Conference in Denver, CO in April 2017 (plan to submit abstract between December 2016-January 2017)
 - 3) TxCOEM in Houston, TX in May 2017
 - 4) UT Health Research Day in May 2017

Outcomes/Impact

The information we obtain from the surveys will help set the stage for potential improvement in existing materials or for the production of innovative educational materials for the Hispanic farmworker population with respect to sun-protection and skin cancer education. The study hopes to develop practical ideas to address potential barriers that may be identified in proper sun-safety behavior and the seeking of medical care for skin-related illness in order to promote better health outcomes.