

Melanoma sequencing reveals genetic effects of sun damage

Whole genome sequencing of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, has confirmed the long-held belief that greater sun exposure raises cancer risk by increasing the frequency of genetic mutation. The study also identifies one gene, PREX2, that is mutated in 14 percent of cases. The research team, led by scientists from the Broad Institute and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in the USA, hope that investigating and classifying cancers at the genomic level, rather than by where they originate or how they look under the microscope, will usher in a new era of cancer treatment.

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