



May 8, 2012

MRA Releases Statement on the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force's Recommendations on Behavioral Counseling to Prevent Skin Cancer

The task force recommends that physicians counsel children, adolescents and young adults with fair skin to minimize their exposure to ultraviolet radiation, and especially for them to avoid tanning beds, is welcome advice in the effort to reduce the risk for skin cancer, said the Melanoma Research Alliance, the largest private funder of melanoma research. Coming as it does in the month of May, Melanoma Awareness Month, melanoma is responsible for 80% of skin cancer deaths and its incidence has been increasing, particularly among younger people. While some individuals are more susceptible, including those with fair skin, everyone is at risk, and the MRA encourages all children, parents and adults to protect themselves from the sun, avoid indoor tanning, and know their skin and examine it regularly. This recommendation is a step in the right direction and underscores the need for greater education and awareness to prevent this deadly skin cancer.

Read the current recommendations:

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/uspsskco.htm>