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An age-dependent interaction between sex and geographical UV index in melanoma risk

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**Capsule summary**

- UV exposure may differentially impact risk of melanoma by sex and age group.
- The female sex plays a significant and independent role in early onset melanoma.
- More effective preventive strategies can be developed based on the understanding of sex- and age-specific melanoma causes.

1 An age-dependent interaction between sex and geographical UV index in melanoma risk  
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4

## 5 **Abstract**

6 Background: UV exposure may not equally impact melanoma development in different sexes and ages.  
7 Whether and how these factors interact with each other in melanoma risk is unknown.

8 Objective: This study attempts to estimate interactions among UVI, sex and age in melanoma risk.

9 Methods: Melanoma incidence data was collected from 42 cancer registries. Geographical UV index  
10 (UVI) was collected from local satellite stations. Negative binomial regression models were used to  
11 estimate the impact of each risk factor and their interactions.

12 Results: Sex, UVI and age, as well as interactions between any two of these factors were significantly  
13 associated with melanoma risk. In younger age groups, the female sex is an independent risk factor for  
14 melanoma that is not impacted by ambient UV exposure. In older age groups, however, the female sex  
15 interacts with UV exposure as a risk factor, exhibiting a protective effect. The switching age category is  
16 45-49, which correlates with dramatic hormonal changes.

17 Limitations: the interaction between sex and UVI is measured at an ecological level.

18 Conclusion: The interaction between sex and UVI is age-dependent. The female sex is an  
19 independent risk factor for early onset melanoma, but the female sex also protects against UV-  
20 associated melanoma in older age groups.

21 **Key words:** melanoma, UV, UVI, latitude, gender, sex, epidemiology

22 **Abbreviations and acronyms:** UVI, ultraviolet index; ASR, age-standardized rate.

23

24 **Introduction**

25 Melanoma is the number one cause of death in skin cancer <sup>1,2</sup>, and is one of the most commonly diagnosed  
26 cancers in adolescence and young adults (AYA), especially in young women during their reproductive age <sup>3</sup>.  
27 While most other cancer types have shown a decreasing trend of incidence rates over the past 24 years,  
28 melanoma remains one of the common cancer types with increasing trend<sup>4</sup>; and the epidemiological  
29 reasons are mostly attributed to ultraviolet radiation (UVR), including solar UV and indoor tanning bed <sup>5,6</sup>.

30

31 Risks for AYA melanoma include white ethnicity, female gender and environmental UV radiation <sup>7</sup>.

32 Melanoma incidence rates increase with age for both genders but with different patterns <sup>8,9</sup>: young women  
33 (<45 year old) have higher incidence rates than young men, but the trend reverses at older age – older  
34 women have lower incidence rates than older men <sup>9</sup>. It has been known for over 30 years that the  
35 melanoma incidence and mortality is higher in women than that in men at younger ages <sup>10</sup>. Most  
36 epidemiological studies attributed this cause to life style and tanning bed use for younger women <sup>11,12</sup>, i.e.,  
37 younger women are less covered under the sun and use tanning beds more often <sup>12,13</sup>, hence they are  
38 more exposed to UVR. However, it was reported in a meta-analysis that in Europe tanning bed use only  
39 counted for 5.4% of all melanoma cases <sup>14</sup>. Therefore the question remains as to whether UVR can fully  
40 account for the gender difference observed in AYA melanoma, or alternatively, whether melanomas from all  
41 ages are equally affected by UVR.

42 Our previous studies strongly suggested negative answers to the above questions. We first described  
43 a unique female to male rate ratio change over age in melanoma which showed a peak difference at  
44 reproductive age <sup>9</sup>. Non-melanoma skin cancer, which was also caused by UV exposure, did not  
45 exhibit such age-dependent rate ratio difference between sexes <sup>9</sup>. More importantly, this rate ratio  
46 difference was observed in all ethnicities including African American group whose skin are well  
47 protected from UVR<sup>9</sup>. Further regression analysis on sex-specific age-standardized rates and daily  
48 average geographical UVI revealed that melanoma incidence rates in men showed a significant  
49 association with geographical UVI, but there was no such association in women <sup>15</sup>. These findings are  
50 very intriguing; they strongly suggest an independent role of sex, which has always been linked to

51 differential UV behavior between sexes. In this study we set out to examine whether we can separate  
52 the role between UVR, age and sex, and explore potential interactions among these factors in  
53 melanoma risk.

#### 54 **Materials and Methods:**

55 **Registry selection and melanoma classification:** For melanoma cases, tumor classification was  
56 based on the standard of the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology, ICD-O-3, with code  
57 C43. In order to obtain a relatively homogeneous ethnic background, registries from northern Europe,  
58 United States and Australia were selected based on ethnic information. For northern Europe, countries  
59 with at least 50% light eye color of population were selected <sup>16</sup>. This excludes most of southern  
60 European countries even though they are Caucasians. Belgium was excluded because data was not  
61 available for a 10 year period of time. For the United States, race information is available so only white  
62 race was included in all selected registries. For Australia, it is known that the Northern Territory  
63 contains a large indigenous population, therefore the Northern Territory was excluded. For all  
64 registries, the most recent 10 years of incidence rates (case and population numbers in each 5 year  
65 age categories) were collected based on the data availability (Table 1), either from 1998 to 2007 or  
66 from 2000 to 2009. For European countries, data was obtained from Eureg (part of International  
67 Agency for Research of Cancer, IARC) website (<http://eco.iarc.fr/eureg/Default.aspx>). For the United  
68 States, data was downloaded from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program  
69 of the National Cancer Institute via SEER\*Stat software. For Australia registries, data was obtained  
70 from IARC CI5, volume X plus.

71 **Geographical UVI data and local latitude:** The local UV indices were collected as described in our  
72 previous publication <sup>15</sup>. Briefly, UV indices were calculated from data collected by local satellite stations.  
73 The scale of UVI is proportional to the intensity of erythema-causing UV doses on the earth surface  
74 any day at noon <sup>17</sup>. Daily UVI were collected from July 1, 2002, the earliest time when the data was  
75 available, to June 30, 2014 when data was first collected for this study. Average daily UVI for this

76 period was used for analysis. The latitude value was that of roughly the central latitude of the registry  
77 area. More details are described in Supplemental Method.

78 **Statistical methods:** A negative binomial regression model was used to estimate association of age,  
79 sex and UVI with melanoma risk because, although the count data (case numbers) fit Poisson  
80 distribution, the data was over dispersed ( $p < 0.0001$ ). In our model assessment, the Pearson Chi-  
81 Square values and degrees of freedom were used to estimate whether the data was over-dispersed  
82 when modeled with a negative binomial distribution. The time period was the same for all registries (10  
83 years), but population size varied, therefore log-transformed population was used as an offset. A  
84 natural log link was used for a log linear model. Comparison between models was made via log  
85 likelihood ratios and chi square statistics.

## 86 Results

### 87 All three factors and interactions between each two contribute significantly to melanoma risk

88 Table 1 lists the registries and countries, years of data collection, age-standardized gender-specific  
89 melanoma incidence rates, geographical UVIs and latitudes. As described in Supplemental Methods,  
90 negative binomial regression was used to assess melanoma risk. In the base model (Model 1) which  
91 include three factors only, all three variables (age, sex and UVI) were significant contributors to  
92 melanoma risk (Table 2). Sequentially adding an interaction between UVI\*sex, or UVI\*age, or age\*sex  
93 to base model, we generated Model 2, 3 and 4. Each interaction significantly improved the prediction  
94 of melanoma risk as judged by the significant p values for either the interaction, or the model  
95 comparison, or both (Table 2). Model 5 included all three possible 2x2 interactions, and again it is a  
96 significantly better model than Model 4. When latitude was used instead of UVI, the results were  
97 similar (Supplemental Table S1), all three variables and their interactions showed significant  
98 contributions to melanoma risk. Note that in all models, sex exhibited a negative coefficient, revealing  
99 that overall females showed a protective effect against melanoma risk as the regression models used  
100 male sex as a baseline.

**101 The female sex is an independent risk factor for melanoma diagnosed at younger age**

102 The interaction between UVI and sex was not well documented. We next examined UVI\*sex interaction  
103 using the same negative binomial model for each age category. As shown in Table 3, both models  
104 suggested that UVI was significantly associated with melanoma risk across all age categories except  
105 for the very young age (Agecat 1).

106 Sex association with melanoma risk was age-dependent in both models, with different patterns. At very  
107 young age (0-14 years) the role of sex was uncertain as the p values ranged from non-significant to  
108 significant in model A for various age groups (Table 3). Adding UVI\*sex interaction did not improve the  
109 model, meaning sex at these age groups did not modify UVI effect.

110 Age 15-19 group was a unique group in which sex was significantly associated with melanoma in both  
111 models; adding UVI\*sex interaction significantly improved model (Table 3). The interaction between  
112 UVI and sex contributed significantly in determining melanoma risk as indicated by its significant p  
113 value ( $p=0.0304$ , Table 3). Therefore sex alone and the interaction between sex and UVI both are  
114 crucial.

115 For the 20-44 age group (the major reproductive age group), sex alone played a significant role in both  
116 models, while the UVI\*sex interaction impact was not significant, as reflected by the p values for both  
117 the model comparison and for the interaction (Table 3).

118 Age 45-49 is a transition group, in which sex showed marginally significant impact in Model A ( $p=0.063$ )  
119 but shows significant impact in Model B ( $p=0.0076$ ). The interaction between sex and UVI is also  
120 significant in this age group ( $p = 0.038$ ). Therefore this age group and the age group 15-19 are the only  
121 two groups where both sex and UVI-sex interaction play significant roles in determining melanoma  
122 outcome. For both groups Model B is better than Model A, which emphasizes the importance of the  
123 interaction.

124 Sex does not play a role in the age 50-54 group in either model. This is consistent with our previous  
125 findings: the rate ratio between sexes for this age group is nearly 1.0<sup>9</sup>. When the UVI and sex



126 interaction is taken into consideration, sex is still not a significant contributor ( $p = 0.064$ ), but the  
127 interaction is ( $p = 0.0325$ ) (Table 3).

128 After age 54, Model B was significantly better than Model A; therefore sex alone is no longer a  
129 significant risk factor, even though we know that men's rates are higher than women's in these ages. In  
130 these older age groups, it is the interaction between sex and UVI that becomes important (Table 3).

### 131 **Discussion and Conclusions**

132 The role of sex in melanoma development was well known before, but it was mostly focused on the  
133 incidence rate difference at different ages. Here we reveal a significant interaction between sex and  
134 UVI which has been under-reported. What was more striking was that the interaction between sex and  
135 UVI was age-dependent. Before age 45 there is no significant interaction between sex and UVI; and  
136 sex and UVI independently contribute to melanoma risk. After age 49 the UVI and sex interaction  
137 played a significant role in melanoma risk, while sex itself was no longer significant. These results may  
138 suggest that, 1) sex plays an independent role in early onset melanoma development, and 2) sex  
139 exhibited a modification role on UVI impact in melanoma occurring later in life; specifically the female  
140 sex exhibited protective role against ambient UV exposure.

141 It is worth to note that the interaction was dependent on age, with 15-19 and 45-49 years as two  
142 switching ages. The age group 15-19 is the group just about to complete puberty changes and reach  
143 their life time high sexual hormonal levels<sup>18,19</sup>. Meanwhile this group is also reported to use tanning  
144 beds more often than other age groups<sup>20</sup>. There may be a link between the tanning bed use and  
145 geographical UVI, so it seems multiple factors may be at play for this particular age group. The 15-19  
146 and 45-49 age groups are also the exact ages when sex hormones exhibit the most dramatic changes  
147 in human life span<sup>21</sup>. In particular, both estrogen and testosterone levels dramatically increase during  
148 the ages of 15-19 and they both dramatically decrease in the 45-49 year age group. This coincidence  
149 may suggest a link of these hormonal changes with melanoma risk, and these changes interact with  
150 geographical UVI to impact melanoma development. The role of hormonal impact is further supported

151 by the non-significant role of sex for melanomas diagnosed before age 15 when the sexual biological  
152 difference is not as dramatic as later ages.

153 For melanomas diagnosed at older age, although sex no longer contributes independently to melanoma  
154 risk, the female sex shows a protective role against UV radiation. Without age stratification, the female  
155 sex exhibits an overall protective effect (Table 2). These results provide a possible explanation and  
156 validation of our previous observation that the incidence rates in women are not significantly associated  
157 with UVI in a linear model<sup>15</sup>. In contrast, the incidence rates in men are significantly associated with  
158 ambient UVI and the association levels increase with age<sup>15</sup>.

159 The limitation of this study is that the interaction between sex and UVI is based on geographical UV  
160 which may not reflect how much UV radiation a person receives, which is also difficult to separate from  
161 other environmental factors such as temperature and latitude. Confounding factors such as indoor  
162 tanning device use cannot be separated from the gender factor as females are more intent on having  
163 tanned skin either through tanning devices or sun bathing<sup>22</sup>. However, females also tend to use  
164 significantly more sunscreen<sup>23-25</sup>. Furthermore, from our previous observation, it is known that young  
165 females did not show a particular higher incidence rate for non-melanoma skin cancer<sup>9</sup>, which is also  
166 caused by UV radiation. Therefore it is highly likely that it is the female sex, and not their sun behavior,  
167 that contributes significantly to melanoma risk at young ages.

168 In summary our results suggest that the ambient UV exposure and sex each contributes to melanoma  
169 risk independently for those diagnosed at younger age ( $\leq 44$  years old), that the ambient UV plays a  
170 significant role in melanoma risk for those diagnosed at older age ( $\geq 45$  years old). However there is a  
171 significant interaction between sex and UVI for melanomas occurring at older age, manifesting as a  
172 protective role of female sex against UV-associated melanoma risk. The significance of these  
173 observations guarantees further investigations in the mechanism of sex difference and how this  
174 difference can be utilized in developing effective prevention strategies.

175 **Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

176 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

177

178 **Author's contribution:**

179 FLS conceived the idea, collected data, performed statistical analysis and wrote the manuscript. AZ  
180 provided statistical advice, examined statistical model and edited the manuscript.

181

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184

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244 Figure legend:

245 Figure 1. Melanoma. Histogram of case numbers (numbers for each 5 year age category from each  
246 registry) distribution suggested a Poisson distribution.

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Table 1. Cancer registry, years, rates and local UVI and latitude

Country	Registry	Years	asr-M	asr-F	UVI	Latitude
Australia	Queensland	1998-2007	60.7	43.9	9.4	20.9
	New South Wales	1998-2007	44.6	30.2	7.2	33.9
	Tasman	1998-2007	37.5	34.9	5.6	41.4
	Victoria	1998-2007	32.9	26.5	6.3	37.5
	South Australia	1998-2007	32.6	26.5	7.0	30.2
	West Australia	1998-2007	49.3	33.8	7.7	27.7
Austria	Austria	2000-2009	11.0	9.7	4.1	47.5
Czech	Czech	1998-2007	12.4	10.8	3.5	49.8
Denmark	Denmark	1998-2007	14.5	17.9	3.0	56.3
Estonia	Estonia	1998-2007	6.2	7.9	2.3	58.6
Finland	Finland	1998-2007	11.0	9.1	1.8	61.9
France	Manche/Haut-Rhin	2000-2009	12.8	13.8	3.8	47.9
Iceland	Iceland	1998-2007	11.4	20.2	1.9	65.0
Ireland	Ireland	2000-2009	11.0	14.0	3.0	53.4
Netherland	Netherland	1998-2007	13.1	16.8	3.2	52.1
Norway	Norway	1998-2007	16.6	17.5	1.9	60.5
Sweden	Sweden	2000-2009	15.5	15.9	2.2	60.1
Switzerland	Zurich	2000-2009	21.0	18.9	4.1	47.4
Germany	Brandenburg	2000-2009	8.2	7.9	3.1	52.0
	Mecklenburg	2000-2009	8.1	8.3	2.8	53.6
	Schleswig-Holstein	2000-2009	14.3	16.4	2.8	54.2
	Thuringen	2000-2009	9.8	9.6	3.5	51.0
United Kingdom	East England	2000-2009	10.1	11.0	3.0	52.2
	NW England	2000-2009	8.7	11.4	2.2	52.4
	Northern Ireland	1998-2007	9.1	12.0	3.0	54.8
	Scotland	1998-2007	10.8	12.9	2.6	56.5
	Wales	1998-2007	9.8	10.8	3.0	52.1
United States	Atlanta	2000-2009	37.7	26.3	6.7	33.7
	Greater Georgia	2000-2009	24.5	17.2	6.7	32.2
	Connecticut	2000-2009	22.9	17.3	4.9	41.6
	Detroit	2000-2009	19.7	16.4	4.9	42.3
	Hawaii	2000-2009	61.2	39.3	10.5	19.9
	Iowa	2000-2009	18.3	15.8	4.9	41.9
	Kentucky	2000-2009	22.1	16.3	5.7	37.8
	Los Angeles	2000-2009	18.4	10.8	6.9	34.1
	Louisiana	2000-2009	17.4	11.4	8.9	31.0
	New Mexico	2000-2009	18.6	11.9	6.7	34.5
	New Jersey	2000-2009	23.5	16.9	5.6	40.1
	San Francisco	2000-2009	26.8	18.2	5.7	37.8
	San Jose	2000-2009	23.3	16.3	5.7	37.8
	Seattle	2000-2009	27.5	23.6	4.3	47.6
Utah	2000-2009	29.5	19.4	6.1	39.3	

asr-M: age-standardized rate for males; asr-F: age-standardized rate for females

Table 2: Parameter estimate from different models using UVI

		Coefficient	Standard Error	Wald 95% Confidence Limits		Wald Chi-Square	Pr > ChiSq	p value for model comparison
Model 1	Intercept	-12.312	0.0754	-12.4597	-12.164	26640.5	<.0001	NA
	uvi	0.1673	0.0107	0.1463	0.1883	244.47	<.0001	
	sex	-0.1383	0.0475	-0.2314	-0.0452	8.48	0.0036	
	age	0.0631	0.0012	0.0607	0.0654	2724.68	<.0001	
	LL*	-8854.7						
Model 2	Intercept	-12.1	0.0909	-12.2779	-11.922	17730.3	<.0001	< 0.0001
	uvi	0.1222	0.0148	0.0931	0.1513	67.79	<.0001	
	sex	-0.558	0.1103	-0.7741	-0.3418	25.59	<.0001	
	age	0.063	0.0012	0.0606	0.0653	2753.02	<.0001	
	uvi*sex	0.0892	0.0212	0.0477	0.1308	17.74	<.0001	
	LL	-8844.1						
Model 3	Intercept	-11.945	0.1384	-12.2165	-11.674	7448.36	<.0001	0.0005
	uvi	0.0898	0.0265	0.0377	0.1418	11.43	0.0007	
	sex	-0.1398	0.0473	-0.2325	-0.0472	8.76	0.0031	
	age	0.0549	0.0028	0.0494	0.0605	378.59	<.0001	
	uvi*age	0.0017	0.0005	0.0007	0.0028	9.98	0.0016	
	LL	-8848.7						
Model 4	Intercept	-11.761	0.0926	-11.9425	-11.58	16127.2	<.0001	< 0.0001
	uvi	0.1662	0.0103	0.146	0.1863	261.08	<.0001	
	sex	-1.1858	0.1131	-1.4076	-0.9641	109.84	<.0001	
	age	0.0504	0.0016	0.0472	0.0537	937.02	<.0001	
	age*sex	0.0232	0.0023	0.0187	0.0277	103	<.0001	
	LL	-8795.6						
Model 5	Intercept	-11.313	0.1522	-11.6114	-11.015	5528.3	<.0001	< 0.0001
	uvi	0.0689	0.0275	0.015	0.1227	6.29	0.0122	
	sex	-1.5477	0.1481	-1.8381	-1.2574	109.15	<.0001	
	age	0.0447	0.0029	0.0389	0.0504	231.08	<.0001	
	uvi*sex	0.0808	0.0204	0.0409	0.1207	15.76	<.0001	
	uvi*age	0.0013	0.0005	0.0002	0.0023	5.78	0.0163	
	age*sex	0.0228	0.0023	0.0183	0.0272	100.78	<.0001	
	LL	-8782.7						

\*LL, log likelihood value

253

254

255

256

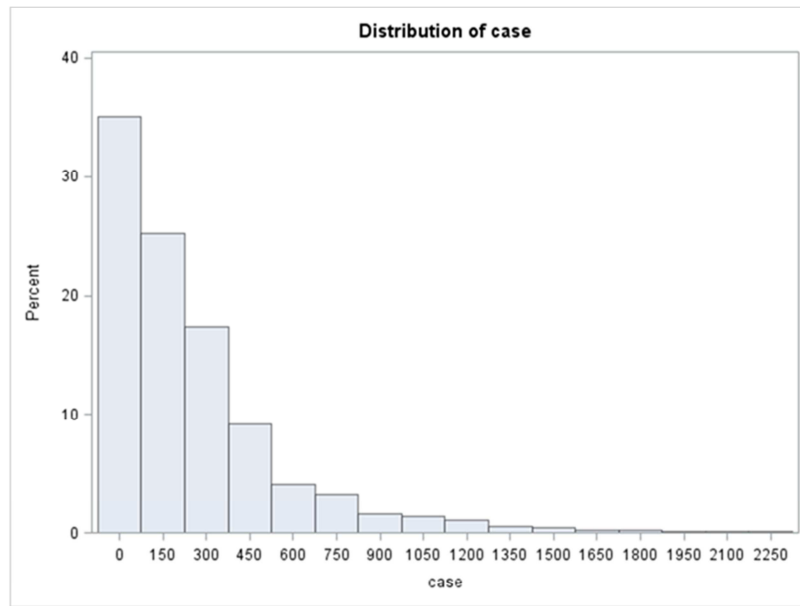
257



Table 3: UVI, sex and UVI-sex interaction in different age strata

Agecat	age	Model A (UVI, Sex)			Model B (UVI, Sex, UVI*Sex)				Model Comparison	
		LL	p_uvi	p_sex	LL	p_uvi	p_sex	p_uvi*sex	LLR	p_model
1	0-4	-91.25	0.1418	0.19	-91.25	0.281	0.606	0.9997	0.000	1.0000
2	5-9	-122.19	0.0075	0.0099	-121.49	0.0048	0.9529	0.2477	1.391	0.2380
3	10-14	-187.39	<.0001	0.2065	-187.24	0.0042	0.3325	0.6093	0.302	0.5820
4	15-19	-328.50	<.0001	<b>0.0019</b>	-325.82	0.0055	<b>0.001</b>	<b>0.0304</b>	5.374	<b>0.0204</b>
5	20-24	-389.39	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-387.88	0.0008	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	0.0941	3.013	0.0826
6	25-29	-441.87	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-440.45	0.0055	<b>0.001</b>	0.1074	2.848	0.0915
7	30-34	-464.84	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-463.72	0.0009	<b>0.0002</b>	0.1505	2.243	0.1342
8	35-39	-480.52	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-478.63	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	0.0597	3.785	0.0517
9	40-44	-497.01	<.0001	<b>0.0002</b>	-496.04	<.0001	<b>0.0056</b>	0.177	1.936	0.1641
10	45-49	-512.55	<.0001	0.063	-510.28	<.0001	<b>0.0076</b>	<b>0.038</b>	4.523	<b>0.0334</b>
11	50-54	-520.73	<.0001	0.8234	-518.35	<.0001	0.0643	<b>0.0325</b>	4.753	<b>0.0292</b>
12	55-59	-529.92	<.0001	<b>0.0056</b>	-525.27	<.0001	0.1288	<b>0.0025</b>	9.309	<b>0.0023</b>
13	60-64	-528.54	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-525.71	<.0001	0.8396	<b>0.0185</b>	5.674	<b>0.0172</b>
14	65-69	-528.40	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-524.73	<.0001	0.823	<b>0.0073</b>	7.339	<b>0.0068</b>
15	70-74	-527.74	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-524.59	<.0001	0.2765	<b>0.0132</b>	6.282	<b>0.0122</b>
16	75-79	-523.19	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-518.21	<.0001	0.5581	<b>0.0016</b>	9.967	<b>0.0016</b>
17	80-84	-496.91	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-492.64	<.0001	0.1813	<b>0.0037</b>	8.550	<b>0.0035</b>
18	85+	-473.15	<.0001	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	-468.35	<.0001	0.3123	<b>0.0021</b>	9.613	<b>0.0019</b>

LL: log likelihood; LLR: log likelihood ratio



Liu and Ziogas, Figure 1

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

**Supplemental Method:**

1. **Calculation of age-standardized rates:** Age-standardized rates were calculated based on the standard world population 2025 (obtained from SEER website).
2. **More on UVI collection:** UVI information was obtained as previously described from local satellite stations (Liu-Smith et al., JAAD, 2017) , except for a few areas where no station was placed. UVI was estimated for these areas based on the similarity of latitude from another area where monitoring station was available. Local median latitude was obtained as where the central line lays for that area, without weighing out the area shape.
3. **Statistical Models:** As shown in Supplemental Figure 1, the histogram shows that case numbers follow a Poisson distribution. The dispersion calculated by maximum likelihood estimation was 2.035 with 95% Wald confidence interval of 1.888 to 2.169, significantly different than 0, suggesting a negative binomial model was more suitable for parameter estimation. Estimated by Pearson chi square the data fitted well into negative binomial distribution (data not shown). Log-transformed case number was dependent variable; and log-transformed population was used as an offset. Scale was defined as deviance. The age category was converted into numerical age using the middle point of that category. For example, numerical age for age category 5 (20-24 years old) is 22.5, and so on.

The base model (Model 1) included sex, age and UVI as independent variables. Next we added potential interactions among sex, age and UVI in Model 1 and sequentially generated Model 2 (with interaction between UVI and sex, UVI\*sex), Model 3 (UVI\*age) and Model 4 (age\*sex). Model 5 included all three 2x2 interactions.

Model A and Model B were also based on the negative binomial regression on each age strata. Model A included only UVI and sex and Model B included UVI\*sex interaction as an additional variable.

## Supplemental Table 1

Supplemental Table 1: parameter estimate from different models using latitude

		Coefficient	Standard Error	Wald 95% Confidence Limits		Wald Chi-Square	Pr > ChiSq	p value for model comparison
Model 1	Intercept	-10.149	0.1123	-10.369	-9.929	8162.22	<.0001	
	latitude	-0.0307	0.002	-0.0346	-0.027	229	<.0001	
	sex	-0.1374	0.048	-0.2314	-0.044	8.22	0.0042	
	age	0.0631	0.0012	0.0607	0.066	2679.83	<.0001	
	LL*	-8867.5						NA
Model 2	Intercept	-10.548	0.1405	-10.823	-10.27	5638.65	<.0001	
	latitude	-0.0218	0.0028	-0.0273	-0.016	59.82	<.0001	
	sex	0.6568	0.1856	0.293	1.021	12.52	0.0004	
	age	0.063	0.0012	0.0607	0.065	2711.69	<.0001	
	latitude*sex	-0.0177	0.004	-0.0256	-0.010	19.56	<.0001	
	LL	-8855.8						<0.0001
Model 3	Intercept	-10.86	0.2342	-11.32	-10.40	2150.4	<.0001	
	latitude	-0.0147	0.0051	-0.025	-0.005	8.51	0.0035	
	sex	-0.1389	0.0477	-0.232	-0.046	8.5	0.0036	
	age	0.0788	0.0048	0.0695	0.0882	272.97	<.0001	
	latitude*age	-0.0004	0.0001	-0.0006	-0.0001	11.66	0.0006	
	LL	-8860.5						<0.0001
Model 4	Intercept	-9.6074	0.1222	-9.8468	-9.3679	6182.3	<.0001	
	latitude	-0.0305	0.002	-0.0343	-0.0267	244.79	<.0001	
	sex	-1.1911	0.1143	-1.4152	-0.967	108.55	<.0001	
	age	0.0504	0.0017	0.0472	0.0537	918.54	<.0001	
	age*sex	0.0233	0.0023	0.0188	0.0278	102.07	<.0001	
	LL	-8808.9						<0.0001
Model 5	Intercept	-10.499	0.2476	-10.984	-10.014	1798.35	<.0001	
	latitude	-0.0109	0.0052	-0.0211	-0.0006	4.34	0.0373	
	sex	-0.4523	0.2052	-0.8546	-0.05	4.86	0.0275	
	age	0.0621	0.0048	0.0528	0.0715	169.7	<.0001	
	latitude*age	-0.0003	0.0001	-0.0005	-0.0001	6.72	0.0096	
	latitude*sex	-0.016	0.0039	-0.0236	-0.0085	17.35	<.0001	
	age*sex	0.0229	0.0023	0.0184	0.0273	99.86	<.0001	
	LL	-8794.3						< 0.0001

\*LL, log likelihood value