



One in five children will develop skin cancer later in life!

Sunburn in the first eight years of a child's life is a 'significant risk factor for malignant melanoma'

As UV levels in the UK reach the 'Very High' status, leading Dermatologists have issued a new warning about the need to protect babies and children from the sun.

Babies and children up to the age of eight need extra protection because sunburn can cause the most dangerous form of skin cancer later in life.

Dr Howard Stevens, one of the country's most experienced dermatologists said, "New research shows that most people in the West fail to use the right sun creams often enough to protect themselves and especially their children.

"The growth in the number of skin cancer cases among adults and young people in the UK has now increased so much that it is now predicted that one in five people will develop the disease."

"Sunburn in the first eight years of a child's life is a significant factor in developing the most dangerous skin cancer, malignant melanoma," he said.

Dermatologists say the simple failure to protect skin from sun damage is to blame for many skin cancers.

Some of the shocking facts to emerge recently include:

- ***One in five of us will develop skin cancer during our lifetime.***
- ***The number of skin cancer cases in Britain is now greater than all other types of cancer put together.***

- ***Some types of fast growing skin cancer change from treatable to potentially fatal in around three months!***
- ***If you develop a malignant melanoma – the most dangerous condition – then your children are ten times more likely to develop skin cancer.***
- ***If skin cancer is treated early, there is a 95% chance of a cure.***
- ***The South East of England, including London, has the highest number of skin cancer cases in Britain!***
- ***70% of skin cancers can be prevented.***
- ***The NHS has a national shortage of consultant dermatologists who can deal with increasing numbers of skin cancer cases.***

Dr Howard Stevens, is founder of The Skincare® Network, a group of twenty dermatologists, reconstructive surgeons and specialist nurses. He said that he and his colleagues see evidence of this every day.

“Skin cancer is reaching epidemic proportions and the vast majority of cases could have been prevented. Climate change will make things even worse but we need to protect our children and ourselves now,” he said.

We also need to be more ‘mole aware’. If you or a member of your family has a mole that has either grown or spread, itches or bleeds, or changes colour, you must get to the GP or call us right away. Don’t wait until a treatable cancer becomes potentially fatal,” said Dr Stevens.

UV levels are currently “High” to “Very High” in the UK and The Skincare® Network team recommends using at least factor 50 skin cream and if your child has fair skin, keep them covered up or shaded as much as possible.

Ends

For more information please call Neil Huband on 07808 298989

Or please visit www.skincarenetwork.co.uk