

Patient interest fairly high for melanoma genetic risk testing

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(HealthDay)—There is moderately high interest in genetic testing for

melanoma risk among the general population, according to a study published in the June issue of *JAMA Dermatology*.

Jennifer L. Hay, Ph.D., from the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, and colleagues examined interest in and uptake of *MC1R* testing in the general population and assessed patterns across demographic and skin cancer risk factors. Patients were randomized to either usual-care condition (National Cancer Institute skin cancer pamphlet for diverse skin types) or an *MC1R* test offer (following three web-based educational modules presenting the rationale, benefits, and drawbacks of *MC1R* testing).

The researchers found that 232 of the 499 participants randomized to *MC1R* testing logged on to the website, and of these, 88 percent (204 participants) requested testing and 82 percent (167 participants) returned the test kit. Race/ethnicity and education were the strongest predictors of logging on to the website (odds ratio for Hispanics versus non-Hispanic whites, 0.5; odds ratio for more than [high school education](#) versus high school or less, 2.7). Sunburn history was the strongest predictor of ordering the test (odds ratio, 5.4, versus no sunburn history).

"There were moderately high levels of *MC1R* test interest and uptake in this diverse sample," the authors write. "Addressing potential barriers to testing may be warranted as genomic information becomes integrated into [general population](#) approaches to the precision prevention of [skin cancer](#)."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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