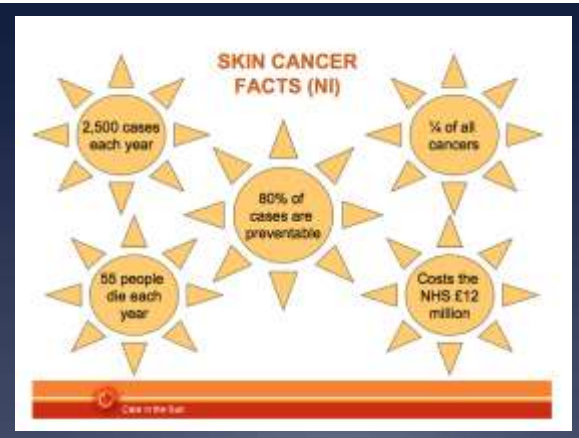


# Skin Cancer in Northern Ireland

Dr Art O'Hagan  
 Consultant Dermatologist  
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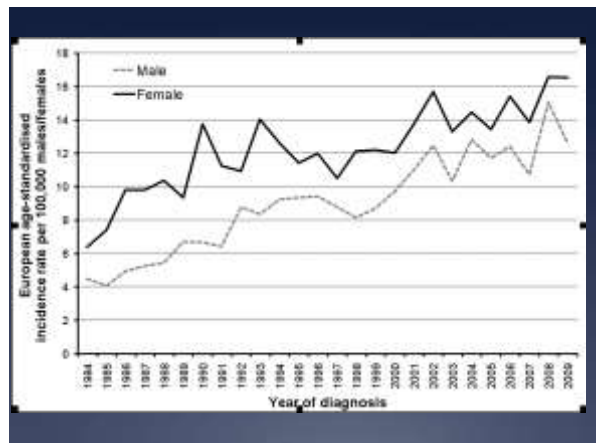
## Outline

- \* Skin cancer facts
- \* Causes of skin cancer
- \* Treatment
- \* Prevention
- \* Northern Ireland Melanoma strategy
- \* Future challenges



## Malignant Melanoma

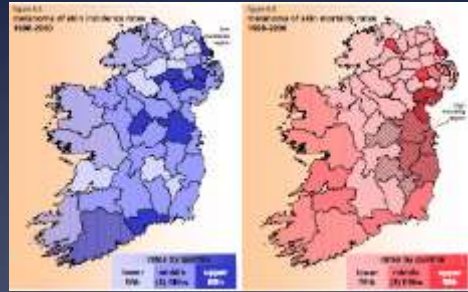
280 cases in NI in last year  
 Potentially fatal disease particularly if late diagnosis  
 Most common cancer in 25-49yr olds  
 Early diagnosis is key



## European Melanoma incidence

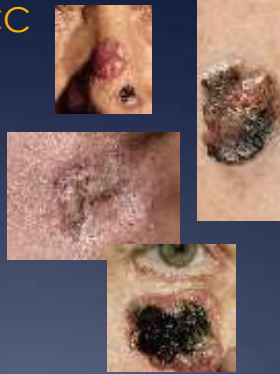


## All Ireland melanoma experience

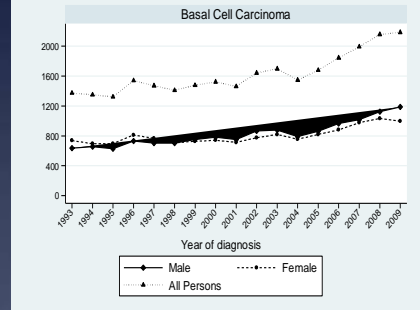


## BCC

Most common form of skin cancer  
 Increasing incidence with ageing population  
 Rarely fatal  
 Huge burden on Health service



Incidence of basal cell carcinoma (ICD10\* C44/M809\_) from 1993-2009 in N. Ireland by sex

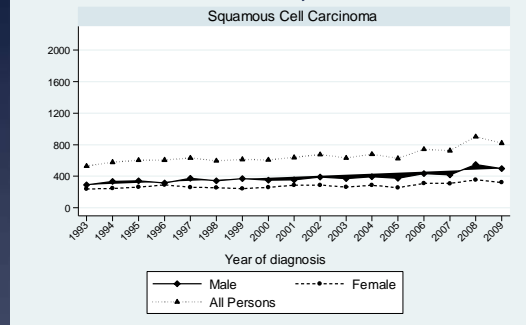


## Squamous cell carcinoma

22% of skin cancers in NI  
 Potentially fatal if diagnosed late  
 Disease of outdoor workers and farmers

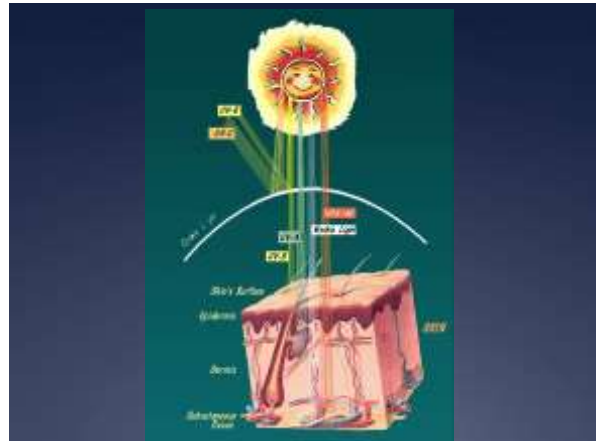


Incidence of squamous cell carcinoma (ICD10\* C44/M807\_) from 1993-2009 in N. Ireland by sex

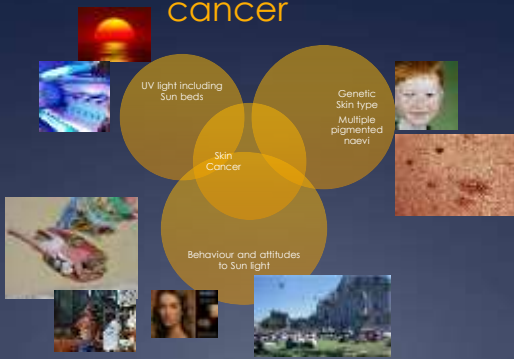


# Causes of skin cancer

- UVB is main cause of skin cancer
- Age of and degree of exposure key
- Genetic fair skin and cancer susceptibility



## the factors involved in skin cancer



## Sunny holidays accessible and desirable



## Sunbed use in children and young adults



Using sunbeds for the first time before the age of 35 increases the risk of developing melanoma skin cancer by 75%.

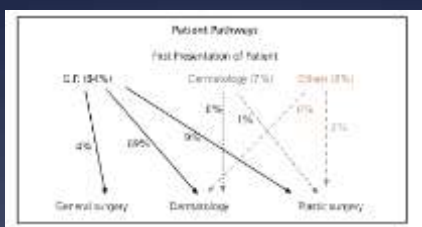
## Treatment of skin cancer

Early diagnosis is key

Surgery by Dermatologists and Plastic surgeons is largely curative in early cases



## Pathways of melanoma patients



Care of Patients with Malignant Melanoma of Skin in Northern Ireland, 2006 NICR

## Complex skin cancers

- \* Dealt with by local and regional Multidisciplinary Team meetings attended by
  - \* Dermatology
  - \* Plastic Surgery
  - \* Pathology
  - \* Oncology
  - \* Radiologists

Establishment of such teams has been challenging due to lack of resources

## Prevention of skin cancer

Primary prevention is most cost effective

First strategy document 1997- establishment of Northern Ireland Melanoma Strategy Implementation Group (NIMSIG) facilitated by UCF





## Research and Publications



## Sunbed group of NIMSIG

- **On Council premises**
  - BCC - Jan. 03 - 35 / Jan. 04 - 0
  - N.I. - Sept. 03 - 8 / Dec 04 - 0
  - Civic leadership
- **Private solaria**
  - surveys
  - HSE guidance
  - Safety Pays



### SUNBEDS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011

#### CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS

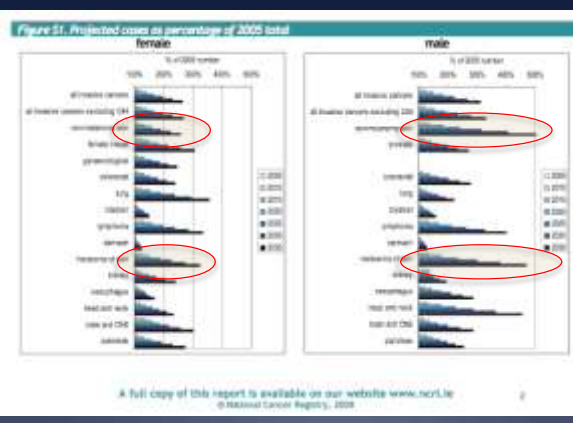
- SUNBEDS (INFORMATION) REGULATIONS
- SUNBEDS (FIXED PENALTY) REGULATIONS

## August 2010



## The new strategy objectives and targets

- \* increase public awareness regarding the dangers of overexposure to UV radiation from sunlight and from artificial tanning devices
- \* Increase awareness about the early signs of skin cancer and the need for prompt attention
- \* Increase individual and organisation wide practice of sun safety behaviours
- \* To increase the proportion of the population who check their skin for signs of cancer once a month or more.



## Future challenges

- \* Continued increase incidence of skin cancer
- \* Meagre resources to implement new skin cancer strategy
- \* Shortfall in clinicians to deal with skin cancer epidemic and maintain access targets for non cancer patients
- \* Funding of new complex drugs that are emerging particularly for Melanoma

## Future challenges

- \* Northern Ireland Cancer Network – melanoma and skin cancer tumour network has been suspended

Thank you for listening