Methods

For every patient, a standardized questionnaire provided by Euromelanoma was filled out.

This questionnaire consists of 3 parts:

- Part A: general information including risk factors (to be completed by the patient)
- Part B: findings by the dermatologist and diagnosis
- Part C: management decision

Possible management decisions (part C) were:

- No further action or treatment required
- Control visit recommended
- Excision, biopsy, or treatment required

If there was no further treatment or control required, the physician communicated this to the patient. A copy of the questionnaire was handed out to the patient, and the original was kept at the dermatologist's office and sent later to the central office of the Swiss Society for Dermatology and Venereology (SSDV). In cases where a particular intervention (follow-up examination, biopsy, or complete excision) was required, the physicians asked the patients for their permission to contact them 6 months later for the purpose of quality assessment. If the patients agreed to this follow-up, they were asked for their contact information (e-mail address or phone number). Ethics approval was not necessary according to the Swiss Human Research Act (https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20061313/index.html).

Six months later, K.U. (author) contacted the patients who had given their written consent in order to find out whether the recommendations given by the physician on the skin cancer prevention day had been followed or not. The patients were contacted via their preferred method (e-mail or phone). During these contacts, the participants were once again informed about the project and asked whether they were still willing to participate in the survey. The patients who agreed to participate were asked whether the recommendations given at the screening visit were followed, i.e., whether the control visit was performed or the lesion was biopsied, excised, or treated otherwise.

The patients on whom a biopsy or excision was performed were asked for their permission to obtain an anonymized copy of the pathology report. In cases where they agreed, we asked them to contact their physician and to send us an anonymized copy of the pathology report.