MELCAYA

Novel health care strategies for melanoma in children, adolescents and young adults

PROJECT **BACKGROUND**

Melanoma in children, adolescents and young adults (CAYA) is understudied and lacking in adequate preventive, diagnostic as well as therapeutic strategies.

The **incidence of melanoma** is reported to be about 1.3-1.6 per million in children under 15 years and 15 per million in 15-19 years old, with increasing incidence in adolescents by 4.1% annually since 1997. Additionally, melanoma is among the most frequent solid tumors diagnosed in young adults, with a European incidence of 6.6 per 100,000 and a mortality of 4 per million. Little is known about the interaction between **genetic and environmental factors** associated with melanoma risk in this context or in the progression from benign nevus to melanoma. Furthermore, lower sensitivity than in adults results in late diagnosis with poorer outcomes, when CAYA patients, particularly the children, could show a 90% 10-year survival rate from stage I/II disease. Thus, melanomas in CAYA represent a medical challenge.

PROJECT **IMPACTS**

IDENTIFY environmental and genetic risk factors for melanoma in CAYA.

ESTABLISH molecular profiles of progression from benign congenital nevi to melanoma.

FACILIATE and promote better international collaboration, standards, and melanoma taxonomy.

EVALUATE the clinical efficacy and safety of anti-PD1 antibodies in CAYA melanoma patients.

DEVELOP an AI-based diagnostic tool to distinguish the images of melanomas from images of nevi or other benign pigmented skin lesions.

CONDUCT rapid and non-invasive tools for risk and prognosis of melanoma in CAYA.

DESIGN health care system strategies on prevention and diagnosis of melanoma.

ENSURE patient research engagement and education throughout the project and its implementation.

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PROJECT FACTS

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Horizon Europe

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