

Report • April 2026

# Non-melanoma skin cancer

solar exposure and occupational health

Sun protection for outdoor workers



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Non-melanoma skin cancer is one of the most common tumors in Spain and Europe, and represents a growing challenge for public health, especially among people exposed to ultraviolet solar radiation in their workplace.

The initiative “Non-melanoma skin cancer: solar exposure and occupational health” has brought together different social, healthcare, scientific, and labor perspectives in order to obtain a comprehensive view of the problem and its possible solutions. The main conclusions are outlined below:

- Despite its high incidence, non-melanoma skin cancer continues to be **underrepresented in official registries and in healthcare and labor planning**. This lack of visibility hinders the adoption of effective preventive measures, the recognition of the occupational origin of the disease, and the implementation of coordinated strategies to protect the most exposed groups.
- In Spain, skin cancer caused by solar exposure is **not included in the list of occupational diseases**, which makes its formal recognition difficult and obscures its occupational origin.
- The main risk factor is prolonged exposure to ultraviolet solar radiation. Although Spanish legislation requires companies to assess and control occupational risks, **this exposure is not adequately integrated into risk assessments**. This reality leads to a structural failure: if the risk is not identified, it is not assessed; if it is not assessed, no action is taken; and the protection of workers is left to isolated and non-systematic measures.
- **Most companies do not implement preventive and protective measures**, either collective or individual. Effective prevention requires action on work organization: integrating the UV index into work planning, adapting schedules and tasks, installing shaded areas, providing protective materials such as work clothing and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), offering information and support to workers, monitoring actual compliance with PPE use, etc.
- There is a **low perception of the risk** associated with prolonged sun exposure in the workplace. This situation lowers the social pressure and incentives for companies to incorporate collective and individual sun protection measures with the rigor required by occupational risk prevention regulations.
- **Health surveillance is a key tool** for prevention and early detection. This includes initial and periodic medical examinations, which should involve thorough skin assessments. Tools such as dermoscopy and screening programs aimed at high-risk workers could significantly improve prevention and early detection.

This initiative shows that the solution to reducing the risk of skin cancer in the workplace does not depend on a single actor; it requires coordination between public administrations, companies, prevention services, healthcare professionals, trade unions, patient associations, and civil and scientific organizations. This alliance is key to achieving structural changes that protect workers' health.

AN INITIATIVE BY:



MADE REALITY THANKS TO:  
**REGENERON**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

