Title: Protection against ultraviolet radiation by commercial summer textiles: need for standardised testing and labelling

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Reviewer: Dr Matthias Moehrle

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

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The authors tested UV protection of 236 apparel summer textiles. Polyester and wool fabrics offer sufficient UV protection (UPF30+) while other fabrics, e.g. cotton, linen, and viscose frequently provide poor UV protection.

For a sun-aware consumer it is not possible to chose the "right" sun protective garment. Therefore the authors recommend that UV protection of apparel fabrics should be measured and labelled in accordance with a standard document.

I agree with the authors that suitable clothing offers simple and effective broadband protection against the sun.

However, sun protection of clothing measured by a standard procedure may differ from the real protection of textiles being worn in the sunlight (1).

For education campaigns it seems more important to highlight to cover as much skin as possible with any textile, even providing a moderate UPF (As proposed in the forthcoming European Standard (2) clothing should be labelled providing a UPF value larger than 30.

Clothing designed to offer protection to the upper body shalll at least cover the upper body completely.

Clothing designed to offer protection to the lower body shalll at least cover the lower body completely.

Clothing designed to offer protection to the upper and lower body shalll at least cover the upper and lower body completely

The authors should consider the proposed European standard (2) in the discussion and in the
conclusions of their paper.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.