Reviewer's report

Title: A population-based survey on tanning bed use in Germany

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2009

Reviewer: Anne Stoebner-Delbarre

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions:

Skin type is known as a predictive factor for knowledge, attitude and motivation about UV. Why there is no data on this item (excepted in "method")?

Methods

There are differences between beliefs, attitudes and motivations. The authors should include their questionnaire because it is difficult to know what is measured. "tanned skin is healthy", "sun feels good" are quoted as "three tanning and sun related attitudes variables" page 5 but as motivations factors page 10 and after What is the exact definition for Skin type knowledge?

Discussion

More attention should be paid in using the word "motivation". It is not clear when the authors measure attitudes, beliefs or motivations.

page 10 : the authors are not allowed to write that "appearance related motivations are strong factors for STARTING tanning bed use" except if their question was "why have you started to use tanning bed?"

The three last sentences are extrapolations and have no direct relation with the article's results.

the papers limitations are missing : statistical power limitation, questionnaire...

Conclusion

Several sentences should be in the discussion mainly those with the references.

Minor revisions:

Table 1:

Switch between < high school diploma results and > high school diploma. Difference between general population and users+non users (exemple 60+ n=423 non equal to 65+368=333, idem for male, 45-59, divorced, skin type knowledge).

Table 2:

"suns feel good" among "frequent tanning bed use" p<.01 or p<.05 (page 8 last line)
Discussion:
first sentence: ... rates of tanning beds use "seem not different" (there is no statistical test done to prove = "are similar to"....) page 9 : table 2 instead of table 1 page 10 : suggesting that that appearance related ... 

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests