

Attachment #8:
Part 4: Medical Professional Interviews

Discussion Guide/Questions

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Medical Professional Interviews Discussion Guide/Questions

Introduction:

Thank you for agreeing to help us with our *Solar Cell* project. As you may know, we received a contract from the National Cancer Institute to develop a smart phone application that can help people manage their time in the sun safely. One of the things the NCI would like us to explore is providing people with advice about when it might be safe to be outside without any sun protection. Since skin cancer survivors represent a very high risk population, we would like to talk with you about what type of advice is appropriate for people who should be extra cautious to avoid further sun damage. I have a series of questions to ask you in regards to this issue. Please feel free to share any additional thoughts you might have as well. Let's get started....

Counseling of skin cancer patients about safe time out in the sun without protection

1. Do you ever counsel patients that have had a skin cancer treated (or who for some other reason need to be careful in the sun) about exposing their skin to the sun in the future?

If "Yes:" What do you usually tell them and why?

2. Do you ever tell patients who need to take special care in the sun to only go out in the sun "when it is safe to do so without protecting their skin?"

If "Yes:" Under what conditions do you think it is safe for them to go out in the sun without protection?

3. What do you tell these patients to do if they plan or need to be outside in the sun when UV levels are high enough to sunburn their skin?
4. Would you be comfortable telling patients that with skin type X that they can be out for Y amount of time when the UV Index is Z?

Do you think there are any advantages or problems in providing this advice to such patients?

5. How well do you think these patients follow your advice about sun exposure?
What difficulties do you think these patients encounter in following your advice?
What, if anything, might help them follow your advice about sun exposure better than they currently do?
6. How important do you think it is for your patients to understand the difference between UVA and UVB?
What type of advice do you give to your patients about the different types of UV?

Reaction to national/international recommendations on safe time outdoors

Here are the recommendations by national and international health agencies regarding safe unprotected time outdoors. Please take a moment to read them.

1. Do you feel this advice is appropriate for your patients who have to take special care in the sun?
2. Do you see any advantages to or problems with this advice?

Evaluation of the *Solar Cell* mobile application

1. If there were an application for smart phones that would help your patients manage their time in the sun to avoid sunburn, what kinds of information would you want the app to provide to them?
What kinds of things or features would make you want them to use it?
In your opinion, what would make that kind of application valuable to them?

We are developing a smart phone application to help people protect their skin from the sun, avoid sunburn, and know when they get enough vitamin D. It is called *Solar Cell*. Let me take a few minutes to demonstrate *Solar Cell* to you.

2. How do you feel about the advice *Solar Cell* provides to users?
Do you see advantages to or problems with the advice?
In your opinion, do you think your patients would like to use this *Solar Cell* app to help protect their skin from the sun when outdoors? Why or why not?
How often do you think your patients would use it?
Do you think it would teach them about sun protection over time?
3. There are uncertainties in the algorithms that we created to provide advice on sun protection? For instance, the best estimates available the time it takes various types of skin to burn are expressed in ranges and the data on vitamin D is new and not well established.
How do you think it is best to communicate this uncertainty to patients?

Solar Cell advice on safe time out in the sun without protection

The National Cancer Institute has asked us to explore whether we can add advice to the *Solar Cell* mobile application that tells patients when it is safe to go out in the sun without protecting their skin.

1. How comfortable are you with Solar Cell providing this type of advice to your patients?

What advantages or problems, if any, do you see with Solar Cell providing advice on when it is safe to go out in the sun without protection?

2. Right now, we are considering advising patients about times when it is safe to go out in the sun without protection. Would you feel comfortable telling your patients to get 10 minutes of sunshine around solar noon? (10 minutes of sunshine for high UV Index > 14 will not sunburn typical individuals of Skin Type I-IV skin)
3. Would you feel comfortable telling your patients to get 1/6 to 1/3 of a minimum erythemal dose (MED) per day?
4. Would you feel comfortable telling your patients that it is safe to go out in the sun when the UV Index is less than 3 (knowing 2.5 hours in the sun could/would burn type I skin)?
5. Would you feel comfortable telling your patients that it is safe to go out in the sun when the UV Index is less than 3 for less than x minutes where x minutes is different for different skin types?
6. Would this advice be consistent with what you currently tell your patients who have had skin cancer?

In your opinion, how does this advice compare with the national/international recommendations we reviewed earlier. Would this advice be acceptable to you?

7. How useful would this information be to your patients who have not had skin cancer or any other reason to be careful in the sun?

Dissemination and distribution of *Solar Cell*

1. A priority of the National Cancer Institute is to translate research into actual practice. We are challenged to create a plan for disseminating and marketing *Solar Cell* to Americans who can benefit from it. One group is patients who need to take special precautions about sun exposure. What type of patient do you think *Solar Cell* would help the most?

2. Would you be willing to provide information about the Solar Cell app to the patients in your practice? How?
3. How much do you think your patients would be willing to pay for a smart phone application like Solar Cell?

Wrap Up

Do you have any final thoughts or suggestions?

Thank you for your time and input!