

Correspondence

Prevalence and correlates of skin bleaching

Dear Editor,

I read the meta-analysis and meta-regression analysis of skin bleaching by Sagoe *et al* with great interest.¹ The authors included 68 studies, resulting in publications ranging from 1972 to 2017. I am surprised because we conducted one of the first epidemiological studies on this problem which was published in this review in 2002,² and this article is lacking in the meta-analysis. Our study responds to the inclusion criteria of their study. From 1992 to 1993, we conducted an epidemiologic and clinical study in Dakar, Senegal. Women were questioned about the use of skin-lightening creams and examined for potential adverse skin reactions; 685 Senegalese women participated in the study; 26% were using skin-lightening creams, and 36% had used them at some times. In addition, we published a review in 2003³ which is also not cited by the authors.

Pascal Del Giudice*, MD

Infectiologie-Dermatologie, Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal de Fréjus-Saint-Raphaël, Fréjus, France

*E-mail: del-giudice-p@chi-sfr.fr

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- 2 Del Giudice P, Pinier Y. The widespread use of skin lightening creams in Senegal: a persistent public health problem in West Africa. *Int J Dermatol* 2002; **41**: 69–72.
- 3 Del Giudice P, Mahé A, Raynaud E. L'utilisation cosmétique de produits dépigmentantes en Afrique. *Bull Soc Pathol Exot* 2003; **96**: 389–393.

Authors' reply to Del Giudice: the global prevalence and correlates of skin bleaching

Dear Editor,

We thank Dr. Del Giudice for his interest and comments in response to our systematic review on the global prevalence and correlates of skin bleaching.¹ Dr. Del Giudice correctly points out their missing article.² We identified the missing article during the literature search and extracted its relevant data into our main table (dated evidence has been sent to Dr. Del Giudice via email). The article² was plausibly lost during the file transfer and table editing process and unnoticed because of the high number of

included studies. It is important to point out that our adjustment for publication bias in the analyses deals with the unfortunate loss of the article. The other suggested article³ provides no original empirical data and does not meet our inclusion criteria.

Dominic Sagoe^{1*}, PhD 

Ståle Pallesen¹, PhD

Ncoza C. Dlova², MBChB, FCDerm, PhD

Margaret Lartey^{3,4}, MBChB, MSc

Khaled Ezzedine⁵, MD, PhD

Ophelia Dadzie⁶, BSc (Hons), FRCP, DipRCPath

¹Department of Psychosocial Science, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway

²Dermatology Department, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa

³Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, University of Ghana School of Medicine and Dentistry, Accra, Ghana

⁴Department of Medicine, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, Accra, Ghana

⁵Department of Dermatology, Hôpital Henri Mondor, Créteil, France

⁶Departments of Dermatology and Histopathology, Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Uxbridge, UK

*E-mail: dominic.sagoe@uib.no

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- 3 Del Giudice P, Mahé A, Raynaud E. L'utilisation cosmétique de produits dépigmentantes en Afrique. [Cosmetic use of skin lightening products in Africa] *Bull Soc Pathol Exot* 2003; **96**: 389–393.

Response to: A randomized, open, controlled trial of tretinoin 0.05% cream vs. low-dose oral isotretinoin for the treatment of field cancerization

Dear Editor,

It is with interest that we read the paper by Ianhez *et al*. on retinoid use in patients with field cancerization.¹ The authors

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