

Are Cancer and Climate Change Linked?

With the depletion of our ozone due to greenhouse gas emissions, the strength of incoming ultraviolet radiation is and will continue to grow significantly stronger. Because of this, there is a large amount of impending health effects and the potential likelihood of being diagnosed with cancer.

With the depletion of the ozone layer, ultraviolet radiation will have a great impact for species on Earth. As time progresses, we are beginning to have a better idea of how this will affect our health.



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CANCER IN THE AGE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

According to the World Health Organization, this infographic presents a summary of possible effects of solar ultraviolet radiation on human health. There are also indirect effects such as effect on climate, food supply, infectious disease vectors, air pollution, etc.

Effects on skin

- Malignant melanoma
- Non-melanocytic skin cancer – basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma
- Sunburn
- Chronic sun damage
- Photodermatoses

Effects on the eye

- Acute photokeratitis and photoconjunctivitis
- Climatic droplet keratopathy
- Pterygium
- Cancer of the cornea and conjunctiva
- Lens opacity (cataract) – cortical, posterior subcapsular
- Uveal melanoma
- Acute solar retinopathy
- Macular degeneration

Effect on immunity and infection

- Suppression of cell mediated immunity
- Increased susceptibility to infection
- Impairment of prophylactic immunization
- Activation of latent virus infection

Other effects

- Cutaneous vitamin D production
 - prevention of rickets, osteomalacia and osteoporosis
 - possible benefit for hypertension, ischaemic heart disease and tuberculosis
 - possible decreased risk for schizophrenia, breast cancer, prostate cancer
 - possible prevention of Type 1 diabetes
- Altered general well-being
 - sleep/wake cycles
 - seasonal affective disorder
 - mood

Coral Reefs and Cancer?

Coral reefs provide scientists with materials in the chemical form to create treatments used to cure leukemia, lymphoma, and skin cancer, among other diseases. Because of the current climate crisis, coral reefs are experiencing drastic declines in their health.

Click [here](#) to view the differences between corals that are alive and that are dying.