

May 24th, Actinic Keratosis (AK) Global Day

Half of Europe's population gets sunburned at least once a year and the majority never get their skin checked by a professional¹

- **Overexposure to sun light can lead to the development of actinic keratosis over time, the most common precancerous dermatological condition²**
- **Almirall revealed new analysis about people's sun exposure, skin health habits, and awareness of actinic keratosis based on a survey showing that 57.80% more than half of the population have never gotten their skin checked by a professional:**^{Error!}
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- **AK Global Day was created in 2022 to raise awareness of actinic keratosis. Almirall's campaign this year is entitled "Stay Vigilant" and aims at raising awareness of the relationship between the disease and prolonged exposure to sun light, which is one of the main causes of actinic keratosis**

BARCELONA, Spain. May 24th, 2024 – Actinic keratosis (AK) is one of the most common diagnoses made by dermatologists, with an **estimated prevalence of 13.3% in the European population.**² In recent years, the incidence of AK has gone up - mainly due to an ageing population, and changes in people's behaviors which lead to increased exposure to UV radiation. To raise awareness of actinic keratosis and the risks of prolonged sun exposure, **Almirall has recently released new data revealing that more than one third of people who have suffered actinic keratosis don't know what causes it:**^{Error! Marcador no definido.}

Overexposure to sun light over time can lead to the development of actinic keratosis. Despite this, **most people have never gotten their skin checked by a professional (57.80%) and half of Europe's population gets sunburned at least once a year¹.** This figure increases drastically in the 35-44 age group, with more than six out of ten people getting sunburned at least once a year.¹ Actinic keratosis (AK) is the most common precancerous dermatological condition.³ It is estimated that 60% of squamous cell carcinoma, the second most common form of skin cancer, develop from AK lesions.⁴

Almirall presented this new data collected in a survey of more than 2,500 participants over the age of 35 in Spain, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States as part of the launch of **its AK Global Day campaign "Stay Vigilant"**. On 24th May, AK Global Day presents the opportunity to highlight the low awareness of this highly prevalent disease, which can progress to cancer without appropriate care. This year's campaign focuses on the relationship between the disease and prolonged exposure to sun light, one of its main causes. It aims at encouraging people to perform regular skin check-ups to detect AK lesions as early as possible and recognise them as a call to action to seek support from health professionals.

Last year, Almirall research discovered that **85% of those surveyed were unaware of the existence of actinic keratosis.** Following these insights, this year Almirall has worked to understand the degree of knowledge about the disease in society.

"Actinic keratosis lesions are closely related to overexposure to sun's UV light. This year's survey data show that there is still a significant lack of awareness of the long-term risks of excessive sun exposure without adequate

protection. Addressing this lack of awareness is a key factor in preventing the development of actinic keratosis lesions as pre-forms of cancer," stated **Dr. Volker Koscielny, Almirall's Chief Medical Officer**.

"It is crucial to remember that certain lesions have the potential to develop into skin cancer. Actinic keratosis, in particular, can progress into Squamous Cell Carcinoma if left untreated. That is why identifying and treating actinic keratosis lesions early is essential to reduce the risk of disease progression." said **Dr. Javier Cañueto**, Head of the Department of Dermatology at Complejo Asistencial Universitario de Salamanca.

About the Almirall survey

In 2023, Almirall surveyed approximately 500 people over 35 years of age in each of the following countries: Spain, Italy, Germany, the UK, and the US. Totalling 2,543 responses, of which 2,496 were valid, the survey asked 15 questions designed to understand the public's sun protection behaviors and their awareness of, and attitudes towards, actinic keratosis. In terms of demographics, respondents were distributed as follows: 60.82% of respondents were between 35 and 54 years of age, 36.94% between 55 and 74, and 2.24% were 75 or older, whereas 55,96% identified as female and 44,04% as male.

About Almirall

Almirall is a global pharmaceutical company dedicated to medical dermatology. We closely collaborate with leading scientists, healthcare professionals, and patients to deliver our purpose: *to transform the patients' world by helping them realize their hopes and dreams for a healthy life*. We are at the forefront of science to deliver ground-breaking, differentiated medical dermatology innovations that address patients' needs.

Almirall, founded in 1944 and headquartered in Barcelona, is publicly traded on the Spanish Stock Exchange (ticker: ALM). Almirall (total revenue in 2023: €898.8 MM, 1900 employees globally) has direct presence in 21 countries and marketed products in over 100.

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¹ Almirall survey: Knowledge about AK. 2023

² Skin Cancer Foundation. Actinic Keratosis Overview. Available at: [https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/actinic-keratosis/#:~:text=Actinic%20keratosis%20\(AK\)%20is%20the,to%20ultraviolet%20\(UV\)%20radiation](https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/actinic-keratosis/#:~:text=Actinic%20keratosis%20(AK)%20is%20the,to%20ultraviolet%20(UV)%20radiation) January 2021.

³ Skin Cancer Foundation. Actinic Keratosis Overview. Available at: [https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/actinic-keratosis/#:~:text=Actinic%20keratosis%20\(AK\)%20is%20the,to%20ultraviolet%20\(UV\)%20radiation](https://www.skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/actinic-keratosis/#:~:text=Actinic%20keratosis%20(AK)%20is%20the,to%20ultraviolet%20(UV)%20radiation) January 2021.

⁴ Thamm J, et al. Diagnosis and therapy of actinic keratosis. March 2024