Supplementary information S1 | Distribution of common melanoma subtypes across different countries

ALM, acral lentiginous melanoma; LM/LMM, lentigo maligna/lentigo maligna melanoma; MM, mucosal melanoma; SSM, superficial spreading melanoma; NM, nodular melanoma. (m) Studies that ascertained mucosal melanomas. Countries with asterisks had a proportion of cases assigned to an unknown melanoma subtype; this proportion is not depicted as not all studies reported unassigned cases. (*) Studies where less than 25% of cases were assigned to an unknown melanoma subtype. (**) Studies where the proportion of cases assigned to an unknown histologic melanoma subtype was between 25% and 50%. In no studies used for this figure was the proportion of cases assigned to an unknown melanoma subtype higher than 50%. Population ascertainment differences between countries might mean that the depicted melanoma subtype proportions are not representative of the country’s population and thus may not be comparable.

Rationale for countries and studies selected for display in the figure:
To select studies for display in the figure, we wrote a program that fetched all occurrences of the term “melanoma + [country name]” in the title or abstract of all documents archived in the PubMed database that were in the English language. The search was performed on 02/02/2017. We then analysed each abstract of the result list to assess whether the study included a series of melanomas classified by their clinicopathological characteristics. We then prioritised the studies by country: we chose the largest multicentre study if available, if not, the largest study in terms of numbers of patients. The selected studies from each country were compared against all other countries in the same continent (performed for Mexico and countries in Central America, South America, Africa and Asia), and the largest five in terms of patient numbers were selected for display on the map.

As comparison populations, the largest studies in the United States and the United Kingdom are also depicted, with the information from Australia coming from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Agency.

Melanoma world map references

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

China

Egypt

Ethiopia

Japan

Korea

Mexico

Peru

South Africa

Taiwan

Togo

Turkey

United States

United Kingdom

Australia

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