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## Estimated Cost of Emergency Sunburn Visits-Reply

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### In Reply

We appreciate the interest in our analysis<sup>1</sup> by Xia and colleagues and their discussion of our use of the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)* for code validation. As they have indicated, the positive predictive values of *ICD-9-CM* codes 692.71 (first-degree sunburn) and 692.76 (second-degree sunburn) support our search criteria. The remaining code used in our search criteria, *ICD-9-CM* code 692.77, is for third-degree sunburn. This event is highly unusual, so it is not a surprise that they found no cases with this code in their data set. Although we did not analyze our data by specific codes, we did note that there were only 11 (0.15%) visits in our data set with a code of 692.77.

We acknowledge the potential pitfalls with the validity of hospital administrative data. Since the data used were deidentified and not linked to medical records, we were unable to validate the billing codes for this particular analysis. National data on sunburn are generally collected through self-report and are therefore also subject to validity concerns, albeit of a different sort (eg, we know that peoples' perception of sunburn varies and is subjective).

Despite these limitations, we found that nearly 34 000 visits were made to an emergency department in 2013 to seek treatment for sunburn, at a cost of over \$11 million. These findings highlight the importance of reducing overexposure to UV radiation in an effort to prevent sunburns and future cases of skin cancer.

### References

1. Guy GP Jr, Berkowitz Z, Watson M. Estimated cost of sunburn-associated visits to US hospital emergency departments. *JAMA Dermatol.* 2017; 153(1):90–92. [PubMed: 27902809]

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**Conflict of Interest Disclosures:** None reported.