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**SKIN MELANOMA DETECTION USING DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING**

**Abstract**

The incidence of cutaneous melanoma, the most lethal of the skin cancers, has risen every year since 1979. Although most cases occur after the age of 40, incidence is rising among younger women, thanks in part to the increased use of tanning beds and other artificial devices.

When melanoma is diagnosed while still confined to the outer layers of the skin, simple excision is generally curative and the 5-year relative survival rate is approximately 98%. Unfortunately, despite the amenability of melanoma to early diagnosis through simple visual inspection, many patients continue to diagnosed with more advanced diseases

The need to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and accuracy of melanoma diagnosis is clear.

The overarching goal of the project is to develop and disseminate digital imaging standards and resources that will help to support efforts to reduce melanoma-related deaths and unnecessary biopsies by improving the early detection of this skin cancer. Specifically, the project is designed to address the significant needs for improving the application of skin imaging technologies to the melanoma problem.

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