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CPH609 – Week 2 Assignment

Research question:

Describe the relationship between basal cell carcinoma and pigmentary charactersitics.

Questions:

1. The authors excluded studies from high risk populations, defined as those with pre-cancerous lesions or familial BCCs, but did not really explain why. If there is an association between pigmentary characteristics and risk of BCC then excluding these populations would have potentially biased the sample of pigmentary characteristics.
2. Did any of the studies account for sun-avoidance behavior? The heterogeneity of study populations may be due to cultural differences in sun avoidance behavior.
3. How sensitive is the heterogeneity measure to the number of samples?