

Sunburn



Read the text and answer the questions below.

Skin exposure to the sun

When your skin is exposed to the sun for a period of time, it eventually burns, turning red and irritated. Under the skin, things get a little more complicated. The sun gives off three types of ultraviolet light: UVA, UVB and UVC.

UVC light doesn't reach the Earth's surface. The other two types penetrate your skin and cause damage. Sun damage isn't always visible. Under the surface, ultraviolet light can alter your DNA, prematurely ageing your skin and eventually causing melanoma.

When you get sunburn, your skin turns red and hurts. If the burn is severe, you can develop swelling and sunburn blisters. You may even feel like you have the flu, with fever and headache. A few days later, your skin will start peeling and itching as your body tries to rid itself of sun-damaged cells.



blister: *bolla, vescica*
to give off: *emettere*
to itch: *prudere*
to peel: *spellare*

Ultraviolet radiation

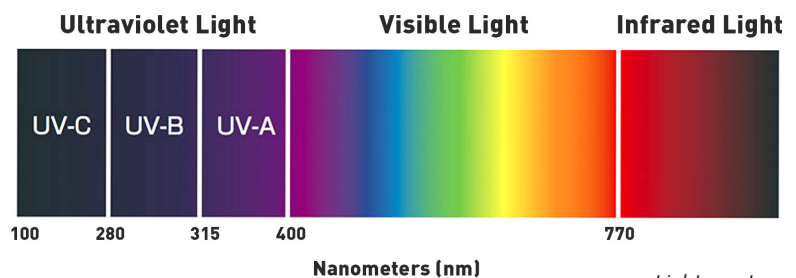
Ultraviolet radiation is divided into three bands: UVA, UVB and UVC. All three bands are classified as probable human carcinogen.

The most common source of ultraviolet radiation is the sun, but it can also be produced artificially by UV lamps.

UVA (long-wavelength) – not significantly filtered by the atmosphere, 90% of UVA radiation reaches the Earth's surface. It is responsible for producing sunburn.

UVB (medium-wavelength) – only 10% of UVB radiation reaches the Earth's surface. It plays a major role in causing skin cancer.

UVC (short- wavelength) – all UVC radiation is absorbed by the ozone layer. However, people who work with mercury lamps may be exposed to UVC rays, which are the most dangerous type.



Light spectrum

1. Which type of radiation is the most dangerous for skin cancer?
2. Which type of radiation causes sunburn?
3. Which type of radiation causes problems which are not produced by sun rays?
4. Which type does not reach the Earth's surface?
5. Which type is practically not filtered by the atmosphere?