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Ashish Dwivedi · Neeraj Agarwal
Jyoti Singh *Editors*

Photocarcinogenesis & Photoprotection

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Preface

It is our privilege and honor to write the first edition of book on unique subject of *Photocarcinogenesis and Photoprotection*.

Incidences of skin cancer are increasing globally which is caused mainly by repeated and increased exposure to ultraviolet or sunlight through increased outdoor activities, changes in clothing style, increased longevity, ozone depletion, genetics and immune suppression. This prompts us to educate others by putting together information on ultraviolet radiation exposure, how it initiates cancer, mechanisms involved, potential therapy, and what protective measures can be taken. This book also covers how commonly used therapeutic drugs, personal care products, and other chemicals when consumed or applied to the body can be toxic under exposure to UV radiation.

Although there is an increasing awareness about harmful effects of UV radiation, exposure to UVR is still unavoidable, and people need to be educated on how UV radiation causes its harmful effects and what protective measures can be taken.

All the authors in this book are highly skilled researchers with thorough and up-to-date knowledge in the field and are actively doing research in the relevant fields. For all the chapters, we put our best efforts to provide collated information from research articles published so far related to the subject and arranged them in subsections to make them easy to follow. We have tried our best to use the simplified language so that it can be understandable to all levels of readers.

We hope that after reading the book, the reader will have more knowledge, understanding, and awareness about the harmful effects of repetitive or chronic UV radiation exposure as well as its interactions with other chemicals and drugs on the skin or inside the body.

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Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India
Aurora, CO, USA
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

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Jyoti Singh

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Jyoti Singh is presently pursuing her doctoral research from the CSIR-Indian Toxicology Research Institute, Lucknow, under the supervision of Dr. Ratan Singh Ray, Head of Photobiology Division. She did her master's degree in forensic science from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi. She is a member of the Indian Photobiology Society, India. She has published a book chapter and research papers in reputed journals like *The International Journal of Biochemistry & Cell Biology*, *Toxicology Letters*, *Biomaterials*, *The Journal of Hazardous Materials*, etc.

Abbreviations

UVR	Ultraviolet radiation
EMR	Electromagnetic radiations
MED	Minimal erythema dose
SED	Standard erythema dose
MBD	Methyl-CpG-binding domain proteins
HDACs	Histone deacetylases
5mC	5-Methylcytosine
5hmC	5-Hydroxymethylcytosine
TDG	Thymine DNA glycosylase
PAs	Proanthocyanidins
GTP	Green tea polyphenols
EGCG	Epigallocatechin-3-gallate
α -MSH	α -Melanocyte-stimulating hormone
CREB	cAMP response element-binding protein
8-OHdG	8-Hydroxy-2'-deoxyguanosine
CPD	Cyclobutane pyrimidine dimers
NBCC	Nevoid basal-cell carcinoma
LC	Langerhans cells
CHS	Contact hypersensitivity
TLR	Toll-like receptor
ODS	Ozone depleting substances
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
MMPs	Matrix metalloproteinases
ECM	Extracellular matrix
NSAIDs	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
PAHs	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
PDT	Photodynamic therapy



Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR): An Introduction

1

Ashish Dwivedi, Amit Kumar Tripathi, Jyoti Singh,
and Manish Kumar Pal

Abstract

Radiant energy of sun is essential to perform metabolic processes of all flora and fauna on the earth. The electromagnetic radiations (EMR) emitted by sun extend from very long wavelength radiation, such as radiowaves ($\lambda \sim 3 \times 10^8$ m), to very short wavelength radiation, such as cosmic rays ($\lambda \sim 3 \times 10^{-19}$ m). The EMR reaching at the earth surface contains wavelength from 290 to 4000 nm. However, the UV portion covers from 200 to 400 nm. The range from 200 to 400 nm is often arbitrarily categorized into UVA, UVB, and UVC radiation. Solar radiation less than 290 nm does not reach at the earth's surface due to the presence of O_3 layer in stratospheric zone. But, last from few decades due to anthropogenic activities, the concentration of ozone layer decreases on stratospheric zone. As a consequence of that, UVB radiation levels are rising to 1% a year. Thus, the deleterious health effects on human beings (skin aging, cataracts, skin cancer, and immune suppression) are enhanced by UVR.

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Keywords

UVR · EMR · Ozone · Skin cancer · Skin aging

1.1 Introduction

Terrestrial life depends on radiant energy of sun which is essential for metabolic processes of all the living systems. Without sunlight, the surface of the earth would be cold and completely lifeless. From the beginning of life, light was an essential component of man's life. The word "radiation" originated from the Egyptian sun god "Atom Ra." It is depicted as the rays of the sun ending in hands holding the symbol of life. Sir Isaac Newton, in 1669, found that white light gets separated into different colors when passing through crude glass prism. Johann Wilhelm Ritter from Jena in Germany discovered UVR [1]. After 200 years of the discovery of UV rays, nobody would question the importance of Ritter's discovery and the consequences of it in photodermatology and photomedicine. In 1845, Bonnet used sunlight to treat tuberculosis arthritis [2]. Jewish physicians in Arabia recommended sunbaths for health.

Niels Finsen work established the branch of modern photobiology. He fixed the role of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) in sunburn [3]. Finsen is the pioneer of heliotherapy and actinotherapy throughout Europe and the USA. Saleeby in 1926 discussed the importance of heliotherapy and treatment of surgical tuberculosis by natural sunlight [4].

1.1.1 Electromagnetic Radiation (EMR)

The interaction of EMR with matter can be described by viewing it either as a continuous wave (wave description) or as a series of packets containing energy (particle description). Transmission through space, scattering, and diffraction can be understood using the wave description. EMR is a form of energy and can be characterized as a continuous wave of regular oscillations of electric and magnetic fields. These fields are perpendicular to each other and to the direction of propagation. However, the absorption of EMR by molecule and the photoelectric effect are best understood when the particle description of EMR is used. In the particle description, EMR is contained in discrete packets, called photons.

The energy of EMR is directly proportional to the frequency of the oscillation of the two fields:

$$E = h\nu \quad (1.1)$$

where E = energy of a photon, h = Planck's constant (6.63×10^{-34} J.s), and ν = frequency.

The product of the frequency and the wavelength is equal to a constant, the speed of light in a vacuum:

$$\nu\lambda = c \quad (1.2)$$

where λ = wavelength and c = speed of light in vacuum.

Therefore, the energy of EMR is inversely proportional to its wavelength:

$$E = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \quad (1.3)$$

The unit most often used for wavelength in the UV and visible range is the nanometer, which is 1×10^{-9} m. The EMR extends from very long wavelength radiation (low energy), such as radiowaves ($\lambda \sim 3 \times 10^8$ m), to a very short wavelength radiation (high energy), such as cosmic rays ($\lambda \sim 3 \times 10^{-19}$ m). The EMR reaching at the earth surface from the sun contains wavelength from 290 to 4000 nm. The radiation is described as UV, visible, or infrared, depending upon the wavelength. The UV portion of the EMR covers from 200 to 400 nm. Solar radiation shorter than 290 nm is absorbed by O_3 in the stratosphere and does not reach at the earth's surface. The range from 200 to 400 nm is often arbitrarily divided into UVA, UVB, and UVC radiation. It is based on skin reactions in human. The UVA portion (320–400 nm) is longer-wavelength UVR; it is not strongly absorbed by proteins and nucleic acids. It does not cause erythema in normal skin at moderate doses in the absence of photosensitizing chemicals. This range is also called black light and near-UVR. UVB radiation (290–320 nm) is erythemogenic and is present in the terrestrial solar spectrum. It is also referred as sunburn radiation and midrange UVR. UVC radiation (200–290 nm) is biologically active but does not reach at the earth's surface. However, the 254 nm wavelength in low-pressure mercury lamps (germicidal lamps) is frequently used in experiments as a source of UVR.

The spectral distribution of solar irradiance, as measured above the earth's surface, is the infrared (>760 nm) and visible regions accounting for the great majority of the sun's emission 52.8% and 30.9%, respectively. Among invisible radiation, UVA, UVB, and UVC represent 6.3%, 1.5%, and 0.5% of the total solar energy output received on the earth's surface, respectively [5]. On earth, the solar spectrum is truncated in the UV waveband at approximately 290 nm after the absorption of stratospheric O_3 . In this region, the middle wave UVR is of particular interest because of its potential to damage organisms [6]. The biological effectiveness of UVR increases logarithmically with decreasing wavelength. UVR shorter than 290 nm is absorbed by O_2 , O_3 , and water vapor in the upper atmosphere and does not reach at the earth's surface.

1.1.2 Nature of Ultraviolet Radiation

On the basis of biological effects, UV spectrum is further subdivided into three regions. This division of UVR was first performed in the meeting of the Second

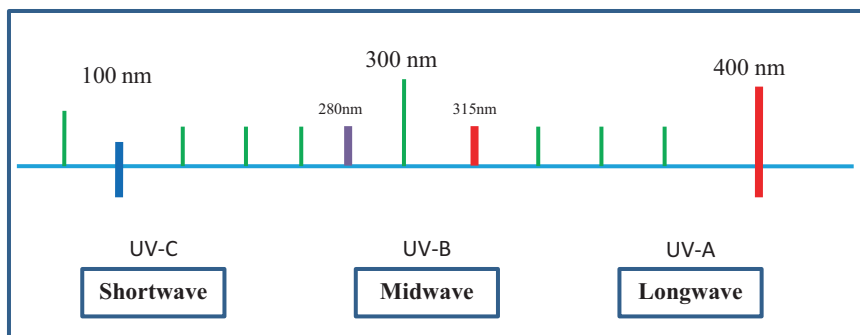


Fig. 1.1 UV regions of solar spectrum

International Congress on Light held during August 1932 at Copenhagen (Fig. 1.1). It was proposed those three spectral regions as follows:

UVA 400–315 nm
 UVB 315–280 nm
 UVC 280–100 nm

1.1.3 UV Regions of Solar Spectrum

However few photodermatologists and environmentalists normally define the wavelength regions of UVR as follows:

UVA 400–320 nm
 UVB 320–290 nm
 UVC 290–200 nm

1.1.4 Nomenclature and Units

The International Commission on Illumination (CIE) is an organization of 40 countries. It is devoted to international cooperation and exchange of information among on all matters relating to [light](#), [illumination](#), [color](#), and [color spaces](#). CIE was established in 1913 as a successor to the Commission Internationale de Photométrie. It is based in [Vienna, Austria](#).

Radiometric units are used to characterize the sources of UVR. The terms dose (J/m^2) and dose rate (W/m^2) pertain to the energy and power, respectively [6]. The radiant energy delivered to a given area in a given time is also referred to as “fluence,” “exposure dose,” and “dose.”

Radiometric calculation: The most frequently radiometric calculation is to determine the time for which a subject who has been prescribed a certain dose (J/cm^2)

should be exposed when the radiometer indicates an irradiance in watt/m². The relation between three quantities (time, dose, and irradiance) is simplified:

$$\text{Exposure time (min)} = \frac{\text{Prescribed dose (J / m}^2\text{)}}{60 \times \text{measured irradiance (w / m}^2\text{)}}$$

1.1.5 Minimum Erythral Dose

The minimum erythral dose (MED, J/m²) is defined as the defined as the threshold dose that produces a noticeable erythema on a previously unexposed skin of an individual. This is determined by reddening of the skin and depends on many variables including skin pigmentation thickness of skin and exposure site.

1.1.6 Standard Erythral Dose

The standard erythral dose (SED, J/m²) is equivalent to an erythral radiant exposure of 100 J/m². The SED is independent of skin type, and a particular exposure dose in SED may cause erythema in fair skin but none in darker skin. The global solar UV index was developed to promote public awareness of the risks of UVR exposure.

1.1.7 UV Index

The UV index is used to aware the general public about UVR intensity. It was developed by joint effort of World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Program, and International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection. Further, it was established by ISO/CIE. The UVI is an international standard index which depicts the level of solar UV radiation at the earth's surface. It ranges from 0 to 11+, and the values are divided into various exposure categories. Higher index values represent greater potential for harmful effects to the human skin and eyes (Fig. 1.2).

1.1.8 Sources and Exposure of Solar UVR

Optical radiation from the sun is modified substantially, and two-thirds of the energy penetrates to ground level. Solar UVR from its path through the earth's surface is absorbed and scattered by various constituents of the atmosphere. Air molecules, particularly oxygen and nitrogen, by aerosol and dust particles and atmospheric pollutants absorb and scattered the UVR. Total solar irradiance varies with altitude. Clouds attenuate infrared radiation more than UVR.

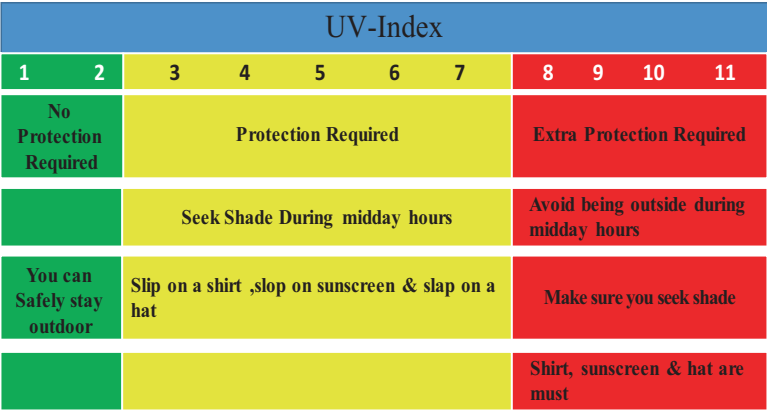


Fig. 1.2 UV index chart

Table 1.1 Thickness of O₃ layer in stratosphere at normal temperature and pressure

Position	Thickness (Dobson)	Thickness (mm)
At poles	310–430	3.10–4.30
At equatorial line	240–260	2.40–2.60
Near equatorial line	150–200	1.50–2.00
At sea level	10–50	0.10–0.50

Stratospheric ozone layer acts like umbrella to control the intensity of UVR on earth surface. Interestingly, stratosphere O₃ layer varies reasonably in thickness between 2.4 and 2.6 mm at equator and 3.1 and 4.3 mm at poles (Table 1.1). At the sea level, it is present only in traces (0.02 ppb). This has been progressively depleted as a result of accumulation of ozone-destroying chemicals in the earth’s atmosphere, mostly chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). These chemicals are mainly used in refrigeration and air conditioning. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded in 1995 to the scientists for sounding the alarm about depletion of the earth’s protective O₃ layer. It was won jointly by Mario J. Molina (MIT, USA), F.S. Rowland (University of California, USA), and Paul Curtzen (Max-Planck Institute, Germany).

1.2 Ozone Depletion

CFCs have been released into the atmosphere in sufficient quantities to damage the O₃ layer. The compounds carry chlorine to the stratosphere that acts as a catalyst to decompose O₃ by photolysis. O₃ depletion promotes to an increase in UVB on earth surface [5]. The half-life of the CFCs is between 50 and 400 years in stratosphere.