MEDIA RELEASE

NAEVUS AWARENESS MONTH

November is Naevus Awareness Month. A congenital melanocytic naevus is a type of birthmark caused by an excess collection of pigment cells within the skin. It is a true birthmark present in three to five per 1,000 newborn babies.

Dr Deshan Sebratnam, dermatologist with the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) says: “Congenital melanocytic naevus can be small and innocuous or large lesions exerting a significant cosmetic and psychological burden. Some birthmarks can be associated with problems with the brain and larger birthmarks may be associated with an increased risk of some cancers like melanoma.”

Michelle Sibbons from Naevus Support Australia Inc. says: “The psychological burden is certainly one of the biggest in the long term for people with congenital melanocytic naevus, although medical information is a priority for new parents. The associated issues, such as hair growth and itching, are also big everyday concerns.”

Nevus Support Australia are working collaboratively with support groups and researchers around the world to provide members with the latest information and treatment options for congenital melanocytic naevus and neurocutaneous melanosis. They hold regular gatherings and information sessions so that families can meet each other and share their journeys.

Dr Sebratnam says: “Congenital melanocytic naevus are permanent and its area will increase in proportion to general body growth. Patients need lifelong monitoring for associated skin cancer risks. A dermatologist is the best trained doctor to do this.”

ENDS

Links to further information

Nevus Support Australia Inc.
Nevus Support Australia blog
A-Z of Skin
Find a local dermatologist

For further information on the ACD, visit www.dermcoll.edu.au, or see our updates on Facebook or Twitter at @DermatologyACD #dermcoll or LinkedIn

About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.
Media enquiries:

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