

Study finds psoriasis treatment increases skin cancer risk

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The long-term risk of squamous cell carcinoma is significantly increased for patients with severe psoriasis who receive more than 350 psoralen and ultraviolet A treatments compared with those who receive fewer than 50 treatments, according to research published in the April issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

(HealthDay) -- The long-term risk of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is significantly increased for patients with severe psoriasis who receive more than 350 psoralen and ultraviolet A (PUVA) treatments compared with those who receive fewer than 50 treatments, according to research published in the April issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

To investigate the association between PUVA exposure and SCC and [basal cell carcinoma](#) (BCC) risk, Robert S. Stern, M.D., of Harvard

Medical School in Boston, on behalf of the PUVA Follow-up Study, used data from 1,380 patients with severe psoriasis enrolled in a [prospective cohort study](#) who were treated with PUVA.

The researchers found that, from 1975 to 2005, 25 percent of study participants developed 2,973 biopsy-proven SCCs and 24 percent developed 1,729 BCCs. The risk of developing one or more SCC in a year correlated strongly with the total number of PUVA treatments, after adjustment for confounders (350 to 450 versus

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