

Public overinflates time spent by dermatologists on cosmetic Tx

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(HealthDay)—The public believes dermatologists spend more time performing cosmetic procedures than they actually do, according to research published in the November issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

In an effort to assess the U.S. public's perception of [dermatologists](#), Elizabeth A. Brezinski, M.D., from the University of California at Davis, and colleagues conducted a [telephone survey](#) using a validated random digit dialing method.

Based on the 800 adults completing the survey, the researchers found that 46 percent of participants perceived that dermatologists spend a majority of their time managing skin cancer. Just over one-quarter (27

percent of respondents) reported believing that dermatologists spend a majority of their time performing [cosmetic procedures](#). Primary care physicians were perceived by 63 percent of participants to have a more critical profession compared to dermatologists, and to have a more difficult job (54 percent) and work longer hours (92 percent). A comparison of dermatologists to cardiologists yielded similar findings. Respondents perceived that dermatologists earned more than [primary care physicians](#), but less than cardiologists or plastic surgeons.

"Educational efforts are necessary to better inform public understanding and perception of dermatologists' expertise," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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