

Beta-genus human papillomavirus poses skin cancer risk

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(HealthDay)— β -genus human papillomavirus (β -HPV) is a risk factor

for cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) in otherwise healthy individuals, according to a review published online Dec. 30 in *JAMA Dermatology*.

Jad Chahoud, M.D., from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, and colleagues conducted a systematic literature review to identify human studies, involving immunocompetent individuals, that calculated the odds ratio (OR) for cSCC associated with overall and type-specific β -HPV.

Based upon 14 included studies (3,112 cSCC cases and 6,020 controls), the researchers found that the overall association between β -HPV and cSCC was significant (adjusted pooled OR, 1.42). Types 5, 8, 15, 17, 20, 24, 36, and 38 showed significant associations (adjusted pooled ORs of 1.4, 1.39, 1.25, 1.34, 1.38, 1.26, 1.23, and 1.37, respectively) in type-specific analysis. In studies using only serology for HPV detection, subgroup analysis showed a significant association between overall β -HPV and HPV subtypes 5, 8, 17, 20, 24, and 38, with an increased risk of cSCC development.

"The subgroup [analysis](#) highlights this significant association for HPV 5, 8, 17, 20, and 38, which may help to direct future prevention efforts," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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