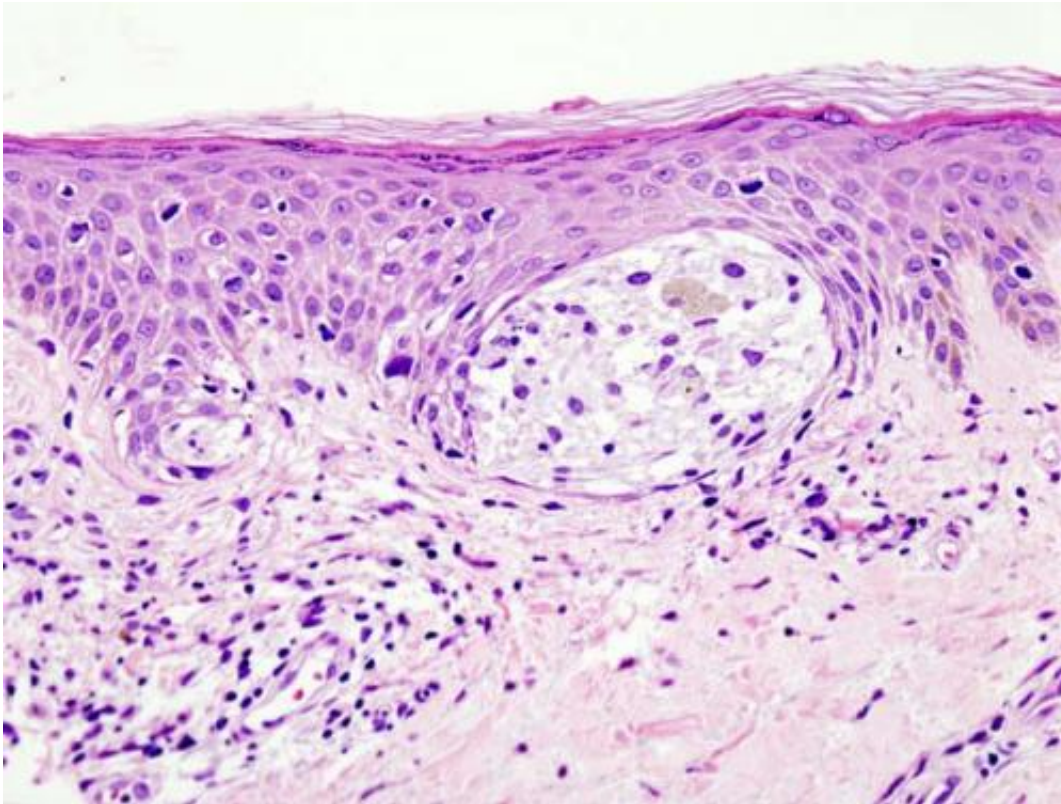


Women younger than 40 at melanoma diagnosis indoor tanned earlier, more

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Melanoma in skin biopsy with H&E stain—this case may represent superficial spreading melanoma. Credit: Wikipedia/CC BY-SA 3.0

Women younger than 40 when diagnosed with melanoma reported initiating indoor tanning at an earlier age and more frequent tanning than older women diagnosed with the potentially fatal skin cancer, according to an article on a study in Minnesota published online by *JAMA*

Dermatology.

Melanoma incidence in the United States and in Minnesota is rising more steeply among women than men younger than 50. DeAnn Lazovich, Ph.D., of the University of Minnesota, and coauthors analyzed data to examine the likelihood of [melanoma](#) in relation to indoor tanning, the age when indoor tanning started, and the frequency of indoor tanning for men and women according to age at melanoma diagnosis or reference age for healthy control patients used as a comparison group.

The study included 681 patients diagnosed with melanoma between 2004 and 2007 and 654 comparison patients between the ages of 25 and 49. Among the patients with melanoma, 68.3 percent were women as were 68.2 percent of the patients in the comparison group.

Women who tanned indoors had between a two times to six times increased risk of developing melanoma, the study suggests.

Compared with women 40 to 49, women younger than 40 reported initiating indoor tanning at a younger age (16 vs. 25 years old) and they reported more frequent indoor tanning (median number of session, 100 vs. 40), according to the results.

About 33 percent of the women (21 participants) diagnosed before the age of 30 had melanomas on their trunk compared with 24 percent of women (64 participants) who were 40 to 49.

All but two of the 63 youngest women in the group of women diagnosed with melanoma younger 30 reported tanning indoors.

Men were less likely to report indoor tanning use compared with women (44.3 percent vs. 78.2 percent), regardless of whether the men were

diagnosed with melanoma or were comparison patients, which may explain the inconclusive findings for indoor tanning and melanoma among men. Still, among men 30 to 39, about 41 percent were diagnosed as having melanoma on their trunk compared with 49 percent of men [age](#) 40 to 49.

The authors detail study limitations, including small sample sizes in some groups, especially among men, and low response rates.

"Our results indicate that these efforts need to be accelerated and expanded beyond bans on minor access to indoor tanning to curb the melanoma epidemic, which seems likely to continue unabated especially among young women, unless exposure to indoor tanning is further restricted and reduced," the authors conclude.

"In conclusion, the article by Lazovich et al highlights the need to address indoor tanning among young white [women](#), among whom indoor tanning is most common. Reducing exposure to UV radiation from indoor tanning is an important strategy for melanoma prevention. Ongoing surveillance can be used to determine the impact of policies on reducing the use of [indoor tanning](#) and the incidence of melanoma," write Gery P. Guy, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H., of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, and coauthors in a related editorial.

More information: *JAMA Dermatology*. Published online January 27, 2016. [DOI: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2015.2938](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamadermatol.2015.2938)

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