

# Prophylactic antibiotics cut risk of anti-EGFR skin rash

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(HealthDay)—For patients receiving anti-epidermal growth factor

receptor (EGFR) treatment, the risk of developing skin rash is reduced for those taking prophylactic antibiotics, according to a review published online May 23 in the *British Journal of Dermatology*.

Fausto Petrelli, M.D., from Piazzale Ospedale in Treviglio, Italy, and colleagues conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to examine whether [prophylactic antibiotics](#) can reduce the occurrence and severity of anti-EGFR drug-related skin rashes. Data were included for 1,073 [patients](#) from 13 studies.

The researchers found that, compared to patients without [antibiotic prophylaxis](#), patients in the prophylactic antibiotic arms had a reduced risk of developing a skin rash in all studies (odds ratio, 0.53). Based on 12 studies, moderate-to-severe toxicities were reduced by almost 70 percent (odds ratio, 0.32). This corresponded to a 26 percent absolute difference of high-grade skin rash versus control arms (from 50 to 24 percent).

"Taking preemptive tetracyclines for several weeks at the start of anti-EGFR treatment can significantly reduce the incidence and severity of cutaneous acneiform rash," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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