

# Pathologists vary in suggested therapy for melanocytic lesions

December 20 2016

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(HealthDay)—Pathologists have wide variability in treatment

suggestions for melanocytic lesions, according to a study published in the January issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Kachiu C. Lee, M.D., from Brown University in Providence, R.I., and colleagues conducted a survey to assess variability in 207 pathologists' treatment suggestions for [melanocytic lesions](#) in their reports.

The researchers found that 15 percent of pathologists reported never including suggestions and 7 percent reported always including suggestions. Improved care (79 percent), clarification (68 percent), and [legal liability](#) (39 percent) were cited as reasons for offering suggestions, while referring physician preference (48 percent), lack of clinical information (44 percent), and expertise (29 percent) were cited reasons for not offering suggestions. Offering suggestions were associated with training and caseload (P lesions, based on National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines. Seven percent of [pathologists](#) made treatment suggestions that undertreated lesions for invasive melanoma, based on NCCN guidelines.

"These findings may inform efforts to reduce treatment variability and optimize patterns of care delivery for patients," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Pathologists vary in suggested therapy for melanocytic lesions (2016, December 20) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-12-pathologists-vary-therapy-melanocytic-lesions.html>

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