

# Propranolol use inversely linked to melanoma recurrence

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(HealthDay)—For patients with melanoma, use of propranolol is

associated with reduced risk of recurrence, according to a study published online Sept. 28 in *JAMA Oncology*.

Vincenzo De Giorgi, M.D., from the University of Florence in Italy, and colleagues conducted a prospective study involving melanoma [patients](#) treated with propranolol for off-label use. Patients with histologically confirmed stage IB and IIIA cutaneous melanoma and no evidence of metastases were asked to take propranolol as an off-label adjuvant treatment at the time of diagnosis. If they accepted, they were considered part of the propranolol cohort (19 patients); those who refused treatment but agreed to participate in the control group were considered part of the nonpropranolol cohort (34 patients).

The researchers found that the use of propranolol at the time of diagnosis was significantly inversely linked to melanoma recurrence after adjustment for known prognostic factors, with about an 80 percent reduction in risk for [propranolol](#) users (hazard ratio, 0.18).

"These results confirm recent observation that  $\beta$ -blockers protect patients with thick cutaneous melanoma from [disease recurrence](#)," the authors write. "Repurposing the vast arsenal of approved drugs with a nononcology primary purpose may prove an attractive and inexpensive strategy for offering more effective treatment options to patients with cancer."

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

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