

# Racial differences identified in frequency of biopsy for psoriasis

August 9 2024, by Elana Gotkine

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There are racial differences in the frequency of skin biopsy for psoriasis, indicating diagnostic uncertainty, according to a research letter [published](#) online Aug 7 in *JAMA Dermatology*.

Fahad Ahmed, from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and colleagues conducted a cross-sectional study involving adults seen in outpatient dermatology clinics to examine skin biopsy frequency, as an indicator of diagnostic uncertainty, by race and ethnicity among patients with psoriasis. A total of 10,008 patients were included in the study.

The researchers found that 4.8% of patients received a skin biopsy for psoriasis. Skin biopsies were performed most frequently among Black patients (9.8%), followed by Asian or other Pacific Islander, White, unknown race, Hispanic, and other race patients (4.7, 4.1, 4.0, 3.7, and 1.61%, respectively).

Compared with White patients, Black patients had significantly higher odds of receiving a skin biopsy for psoriasis in analyses adjusted for sociodemographic and health care utilization factors (odds ratio, 2.03). In sensitivity analyses that evaluated both narrower and broader definitions of a skin biopsy for psoriasis, the findings were robust.

"These findings add to the limited literature on diagnostic uncertainty by patient race and ethnicity in the clinical setting; they confirm similar findings from a small prior study and provide important granularity on the association between specific racial and [ethnic groups](#) and the likelihood of [skin biopsy](#) for psoriasis," the authors write.

One author disclosed ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** Fahad Ahmed et al, Frequency of Skin Biopsies for Psoriasis by Race and Ethnicity, *JAMA Dermatology* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2024.2554](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamadermatol.2024.2554)

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