

Skin cancers linked with reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease

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Previous studies have demonstrated a decreased risk of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in individuals with various cancers, including non-melanoma skin cancers (including squamous cell cancers and basal cell cancers). A new *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology* study finds that this inverse relationship also holds true for malignant melanoma.

The study included patients aged 60-88 years with a clinic follow-up of at least 1 year and no diagnosis of AD or skin cancer at the beginning of the study. Of 1147 patients who were later diagnosed with malignant melanoma, 5 were diagnosed with subsequent AD. Of 2506 who were diagnosed with basal cell cancer, 5 had a subsequent AD diagnosis, and of 967 who were diagnosed with [squamous cell cancer](#), only 1 had a subsequent AD diagnosis.

After adjustments, a diagnosis of [malignant melanoma](#) was associated with a 61% reduced risk of developing AD. For basal cell and [squamous cell carcinomas](#), the reduced risks were 82% and 92%, respectively.

More information: E. Ibler et al, Inverse association for diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease subsequent to both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers in a large, urban, single-centre, Midwestern US patient population, *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology* (2018). [DOI: 10.1111/jdv.14952](https://doi.org/10.1111/jdv.14952)

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