

Comment on “Mucocutaneous adverse effects of the genital and perianal skin from isotretinoin therapy”



To the Editor: We would like to thank the authors of the article “Mucocutaneous adverse effects of the genital and perianal skin from isotretinoin therapy” for publishing their survey results regarding this important, often underreported side effect of isotretinoin therapy.¹ We would also like to add that, when experiencing these side effects, patients may often use lubrication during sexual intercourse, as demonstrated by the 24% of patients requiring increased use of lubricating agents in this study. It is our role as physicians to educate them regarding safe and best practices. Because all female patients on isotretinoin need to be on 2 forms of birth control to prevent pregnancy, condoms are often one of the most commonly used additional methods. It is important to remind patients that Vaseline or other oil-based lubricants can degrade condoms and result in increased risk of breakage.² This is an important topic to discuss particularly in sexually active young women on isotretinoin, as the risk of pregnancy would thereby be increased. Therefore, we agree with the authors regarding the importance of including preventative and management advice about genital and perianal side effects in patient informational leaflets about isotretinoin, but we

would also like to add that we need to stress the use of only water-based or silicone-based lubricants during intercourse for these patients.

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Conflict of interest

None disclosed.

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