

This Month in *JAAD*: June 2021



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In this issue of *JAAD*, Longo et al (page 1568) report on the utility of dermoscopy and reflectance confocal microscopy (RCM) in Italian patients with darkly pigmented lesions. Their study included 370 clinically dark lesions from 350 patients and reported a specificity of 60.6% with a sensitivity of 98.1%. The number needed to excise with the addition of RCM was 1.5 for melanoma. In their population, dark lesions were more frequently associated with type III skin and were predominantly found in younger adult patients with relatively few nevi. The lesions in question were typically solitary outliers that appeared worrisome to both the patient and the physician. Their findings suggest a role for dermoscopy and RCM in such lesions.

Ju et al (page 1619) investigated the risk of lymphoma and skin cancer in patients with vitiligo treated with topical calcineurin inhibitors (TCIs) or phototherapy. In this multicenter retrospective cohort study of 25,694 vitiligo patients who received either TCIs or phototherapy comprising more than 95,203 person-years, they observed 13 cases of lymphoma, 22 actinic keratoses, 15 nonmelanoma skin cancers, and 5 melanomas. In this population, the risk of lymphoma and skin cancer was not significantly increased in those who received therapy. Their study adds to the body of data suggesting that TCIs have little carcinogenic risk in real-life human use.

Gelfand et al (page 1636) examined the risk of liver disease in patients with psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis treated with methotrexate. In this population-based cohort study, 5687 Danish individuals with psoriasis, 6520 with psoriatic arthritis, and 28,030 with rheumatoid arthritis who received methotrexate were compared with regard to the development and severity of liver disease. Comparisons were made after adjusting for demographics, smoking, alcohol use, comorbidities, and methotrexate dose. The incidence of any liver disease was greatest for psoriasis, followed by psoriatic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. The authors suggest that the differences in the incidence of liver disease should prompt clinicians to consider more conservative monitoring in patients with psoriasis who are receiving methotrexate.

A number of authors in this issue address health disparities among patients with melanoma, identifying important gaps in care and opportunities for improvement. There is much work to be done and we welcome additional research in the area of health care disparities.

Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.

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