

Hydrochlorothiazide tied to non-melanoma skin cancer risk

March 22 2018



(HealthDay)—Use of the diuretic hydrochlorothiazide is associated with

a substantially increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancer, according to a study published in the April issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Sidsel Arnspang Pedersen, M.D., from Odense University Hospital in Denmark, and colleagues examined the association between hydrochlorothiazide use and the risk of [basal cell carcinoma](#) (BCC) and [squamous cell carcinoma](#) (SCC). Using data from the Danish Cancer Registry (2004 to 2012), the authors identified cases with non-melanoma skin cancer and matched them by age and sex in a 1-to-20 ratio to controls. Cumulative hydrochlorothiazide use (1995 to 2012) was determined from the Danish Prescription Registry.

High use of hydrochlorothiazide ($\geq 50,000$ mg) was associated with BCC (odds ratio [OR], 1.29) and SCC (OR, 3.98). There was a clear dose-response relationship between hydrochlorothiazide use and both BCC and SCC, with the highest cumulative dose category ($\geq 200,000$ mg) having an OR of 1.54 for BCC and 7.38 for SCC. There was no association between use of other diuretics and antihypertensives and non-melanoma skin cancer.

"Hydrochlorothiazide use is associated with a substantially increased risk of non-melanoma [skin cancer](#), especially SCC," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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Citation: Hydrochlorothiazide tied to non-melanoma skin cancer risk (2018, March 22) retrieved 4 April 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-03-hydrochlorothiazide-tied-non->

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