



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION COMMENTS ON FDA PROPOSED SUNSCREEN RULE

Statement from AADA President Suzanne M. Olbricht, MD, FAAD

ROSEMONT, Ill. (Feb. 21, 2019) — Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, and dermatologists see the impact that this disease can have on patients' lives every day. For this reason, the American Academy of Dermatology Association and its members are passionate about skin cancer prevention.

Unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays is a major risk factor for skin cancer. The AADA recommends a comprehensive sun protection plan that includes seeking shade; wearing protective clothing, including a lightweight, long-sleeved shirt, pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses; and generously applying a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to exposed skin.

Because sunscreen is an important tool in the fight against skin cancer, the AADA supports any and all regulations to ensure that the public has access to safe and effective sunscreens. We are encouraged that the U.S. Food & Drug Administration is taking this action on the Sunscreen Innovation Act, and we look forward to working with the FDA as it develops and finalizes the proposed rule.

The AAD's sun protection recommendations are based on the existing body of scientific evidence and current FDA regulations; these recommendations will continue to evolve as the science develops and the FDA issues new regulations. In the meantime, however, it's important to understand that the proposed rule does not conclude that the sunscreens currently on the market are unsafe.

As the proposed rule is finalized, we encourage the public to continue protecting themselves from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. If you are concerned about the safety of the ingredients in your sunscreen, talk to a board-certified dermatologist to develop a sun protection plan that works for you.

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Contact

(847) 330-0230, mediarelations@aad.org

About the AADA

Headquartered in Rosemont, Ill., the American Academy of Dermatology, founded in 1938, is the largest, most influential and most representative of all dermatologic associations. A sister organization to the Academy, the American Academy of Dermatology Association is the resource for government affairs, health policy and practice information for dermatologists, and plays a major role in formulating policies that can enhance the quality of dermatologic care. With a membership of more than 20,000 physicians worldwide, the Academy is committed to excellence in the diagnosis and medical and surgical treatment of skin disease; advocating high standards in clinical practice, education and research in medical dermatology, surgical dermatology and dermatopathology; and supporting and enhancing patient care to reduce the burden of disease. For more information, contact the Academy at (888) 462-DERM (3376) or aad.org. Follow the Academy on [Facebook](#) (American Academy of Dermatology), [Twitter](#) (@AADskin), [Instagram](#) (@AADskin1) and [YouTube](#) (AcademyofDermatology).