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JAAD ONLINE: NOTES & COMMENTS

Response to: “Successful implementation of phototherapy guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic”

To the Editor: In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, guidance on delivering phototherapy was published to ensure the safety of patients and staff.¹ It was developed based on the collective experience of the authors who supervised active phototherapy centers in 4 institutions; the recommendations have been successfully implemented in those institutions.

In this issue of the *Journal*, Dragan et al² demonstrated that following the guidance, phototherapy was safely delivered between July 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021, to 36 patients covering 440 appointments. While the number of patients was small, it is reassuring that implementing the recommendations in a phototherapy unit located in a safety-net hospital in New York City resulted in no surge of SARS-CoV-2 infection among their patients. However, we also note the concern of Dragan et al² about barriers to access for home phototherapy. Therefore, we are conducting the Light Treatment Effectiveness (LITE, NCT03726489) study, a pragmatic trial of home vs office-based phototherapy for psoriasis in 1050 patients across the US stratified by skin type, to improve our understanding of the effectiveness of home phototherapy for psoriasis with the ultimate goal of making the delivery of phototherapy more patient-centered. We encourage dermatologists, particularly those who treat diverse skin types, to join this important initiative (www.thelitestudy.com).

With cases primarily caused by the SARS-CoV-2 variant still increasing, continued adherence to this practical guide is recommended.

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Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.

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