Skin cancer prevalence and indoor tanning behaviors differ by sexual orientation in the U.S. general population.

1. Sexual minority men compared to heterosexual men have an approximately 2-fold increased odds of developing skin cancer, including both NMSC and melanoma.

2. Sexual minority women compared to heterosexual women have about half the odds of indoor tanning.

Implications

1. Identified new health disparity in skin cancer prevalence and its known preventable cause among other sexual minority groups.

2. Important implications for research, particularly studies examining a link between HIV infection and skin cancer. Sexual orientation may be an important variable to control for when data on ultraviolet light exposure is unavailable or incomplete.

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