

Iowa Dermatologic Society Concerns:

Research demonstrates that indoor tanning is dangerous.. In fact, indoor tanning is associated with a 75 percent increase in the risk of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Melanoma incidence rates have been increasing for at least 30 years and melanoma is increasing faster in young women (15-29 years old) than in young men in the same age group – and a major difference in behavior is that women are more likely to use indoor tanning beds.

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the single most preventable cause of skin cancer. The United States Department of Health and Human Services has stated that UV radiation causes cancer, and that UV radiation from artificial sources such as tanning beds and sun lamps is just as dangerous as UV radiation from the sun and should be avoided.

Since one American dies of melanoma about every hour, it's imperative that young people avoid deliberately seeking a tan. We should be educating students about this dangerous behavior rather than encouraging access to a carcinogen. We encourage all parties interested in protecting minors to take a closer look at its policies to ensure that it is not encouraging any practices that compromise student health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Iowa Dermatologic Society