American Academy of Dermatology

Supplementary tables for phototherapy treatment pathway

Table I. NB-UVB dosing

- 1. Recommended for generalized plaque psoriasis and guttate psoriasis
- 2. Determine initial dose based on Fitzpatrick skin type (See **Table VII**) and increase as tolerated up to the maximum dose (See **Table VIII**)
- 3. Administer NB-UVB 3 times per week
- 4. Adjust dose for the subsequent treatment depending on degree and duration of erythema
 - Minimal erythema lasting <24 hrs.: Increase by 20%
 - Erythema lasting 24-48 hrs.: Maintain dose until erythema lasting <24 hrs.
 - Erythema lasting >48 hrs.: No treatment that day and return to the previous dose that did not cause erythema

Table II. Maintenance therapy protocol

Is the patient satisfied with the treatment outcome?

- Ask patients if interested in maintenance therapy as a taper or indefinitely
 - Tapering schedule: treatment twice weekly for 4 weeks, followed by once weekly for 4 weeks. The dose should be the last dose given prior to clearing
 - Indefinite maintenance therapy: treatment every 1-2 weeks. The dose should be decreased by 25% and held constant for all maintenance treatments.



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Table III. PUVA (oral or bath) dosing

Oral PUVA:

Oral psoralen plus UVA phototherapy

8-MOP is the only psoralen available in the US

Recommended dosages for 8-MOP oral PUVA				
Patient weight		8-MOP dose, mg		
lb	kg			
<66	<30	10		
66-143	30-65	20		
144-200	66-91	30		
>200	>91	40		
The state of the s				

Recommended UVA dosage for oral PUVA Fitzpatrick skin Initial dose, J/cm² Increments, J/cm² Max Dose, J/cm² type¹ 0.5 0.5 8 0.5 8 Ш 1.0 12 Ш 1.5 1.0 IV 2.0 1.0 12 V 2.5 1.5 20 3.0 1.5 20

Bath PUVA

- Soak affected area in psoralen bathwater before treatment with UVA light
 - o 0.50-1mg/L of 8-MOP in water

¹ See **Table VII** for details to determine patient Fitzpatrick skin type



For more information, see: aad.org/guidelines

Table IV. BB-UVB dosing, adjustment based on MED, and missed treatment

- 1. The initial dose can be selected based on the patient's skin type and MED
 - a. If the patient misses their treatment, the dose may need to be adjusted
- 2. BB-UVB can be administered 3-5 times per week
 - a. Less effective than oral PUVA and NB-UVB for plaque psoriasis
 - b. Less effective than topical PUVA for palmoplantar psoriasis
- 3. Acitretin can be initiated at 10-25 mg per day and given as a maintenance dose of 25-50 mg per day
 - a. Acitretin may cause photosensitivity. The prescriber should decrease the initial phototherapy by 35-50 % and with incremental increases based on the patient's response

the patient's response				
Dosing guidelines for broadband ultraviolet B (BB-UVB)				
Fitzpatrick skin type ¹	Initial UVB Dose	UVB increase after each		
	(mJ/cm²)	treatment (mJ/cm²)		
I	20	5		
II	25	10		
III	30	15		
IV	40	20		
V	50	25		
VI	60	30		
Dose adjustment according to MED ²				
Treatment	MED dosage			
Initial UVB	50% of MED			
Treatment 1-10	Increase by 25% of initial MED			
Treatment 11-20	Increase by 10% of initial MED			
Treatment ≥ 21	As ordered by a physician			
Dose adju	stment if the patient missed	treatment		
Number of days or	Dose adjustment			
weeks missed				
4-7 days	Keep dose	e the same		
1-2 weeks	Decrease d	ose by 50%		
2-3 weeks	Decrease d	ose by 75%		
3-4 weeks	Start over			

² See **Table IX** for details to determine MED in patients.



For more information, see: aad.org/guidelines

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Table V. Targeted UVB dosing

- 1. All targeted UVB phototherapy is recommended for use in adults with localized plaque psoriasis (<10% BSA) for individual lesions or in patients with more extensive disease
 - Relative efficacies:
 Excimer laser (308 nm) > excimer light (308 nm) > targeted NB-UVB light (311-313 nm)
- 2. For scalp psoriasis, excimer laser is recommended
- 3. Determine a starting dose based on fixed-dose protocol, Fitzpatrick skin phototype, or MED

Targeted UVB dosing					
Plaque Thickness	Induration score	Fitzpatrick I-III (mJ/cm²)	Fitzpatrick IV-VI (mJ/cm²)		
None	0	0	0		
Mild	1	300	400		
Moderate	2	500	600		
Severe	3	700	900		

- Administer target UVB therapy 2-3 times per week
- Adjust dose for subsequent treatments depending on erythema and treatment response at 12-24 hours

Targeted UVB dose adjustment based on erythema and treatment response			
Erythema and treatment	Dose adjustment		
response			
No erythema and no plaque improvement	Increase by 25%		
<u> </u>			
Slight erythema with no significant	Increase by 15%		
improvement			
Mild-to-moderate erythema	Maintain dose		
response			
Significant improvement with	Maintain dose or reduce by 15%		
plaque thinning, reduced			
scaliness, or pigmentation			
Moderate or severe erythema ±	Reduce by 50%; avoid the blistered area		
blistering			



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Table VI. Topical PUVA and pulse dye laser dosing

Topical PUVA

- Recommended for palmoplantar psoriasis
- Superior to localized NB-UVB light (311-313 nm) in the treatment of localized plaque psoriasis, particularly for palmoplantar psoriasis
- 0.1% 8-MOP solution compounded with an emollient and applied 20 minutes before UVA exposure
- 1 ml of 1% 8-MOP solution mixed in 2L of water and soaked into hands and feet for 30 minutes before UVA exposure

Pulse dye laser (PDL)

• Can be considered for nail psoriasis

Table VII. Fitzpatrick skin type based on skin color and characteristics

Type	Skin Color	Characteristics		
I	White; very fair, red, or blonde hair, blue	Always burns, never tans		
	eyes, freckles			
II	White; fair, red, or blonde hair, blue,	Usually burns, tans with difficulty		
	hazel, or green eyes			
III	Cream-white; fair any eye or hair color	Sometimes mild burn, gradually		
		tans		
IV	Brown; typical Mediterranean white skin	Rarely burns, tans with ease		
V	Dark brown; Middle Eastern skin types	Very rarely burns, tans very easily		
VI	Black	Never burns, tans very easily		

Table VIII. Fitzpatrick skin type-based dosing

Fitzpatrick skin type	Initial dose mJ/cm ²	Maximum dose (mJ/cm²)		
I and II	300	2000		
III and IV	500	3000		
V and VI	800	5000		
MED test ³ can be performed in skin types I-IV to adjust initial dosages				

³ For determination of MED test see **Table IX**



For more information, see: aad.org/guidelines

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Table IX. Minimal erythema dose (MED) test

- MED should be tested in uniform 2x2 cm sized areas (marked with a skin pen) in a sun-protected region on the hip or buttock. All other areas of the skin should be covered.
- Recommended dosing schedule for skin type I-IV (MED should not be performed in patients with skin type V and VI

Skin		MED test dosage schedule (mJ/cm²)						
type								
I and II	250	400	550	700	850	1000	1150	1300
III and	350	500	650	800	950	1100	1250	1400
IV								

- Start the delivery with all testing areas open and cover after the specific dose of light has been delivered
- Instruct the patients to keep this area covered for the next 24 hours, avoiding exposure to natural or artificial UV light
- The patient should return 24 hours later. The MED is the lowest dose with any identifiable erythema within the tested area

