Doctors prescribing mercaptopurine and pharmacists providing it should be aware that its use in combination with exposure to ultraviolet radiation can lead to phototoxic reactions. If they observe or suspect such reactions, they should report this to an adverse effects reporting centre. Gebu 2010; 44: 37-42 discussed medication-induced photodermatoses, and advocated that patients prescribed photosensitising medication should be warned about the risks of exposure to sunlight or intense artificial light, such as sun beds, powerful halogen lamps and bright lights in operating rooms and at the dentist’s. If exposure is unavoidable, they need to wear protective clothing. The use of a sun-tan cream with a high protection factor offers some protection, but is not always sufficient.

References*


*The literature refers to the Dutch text

Authors

- Lareb