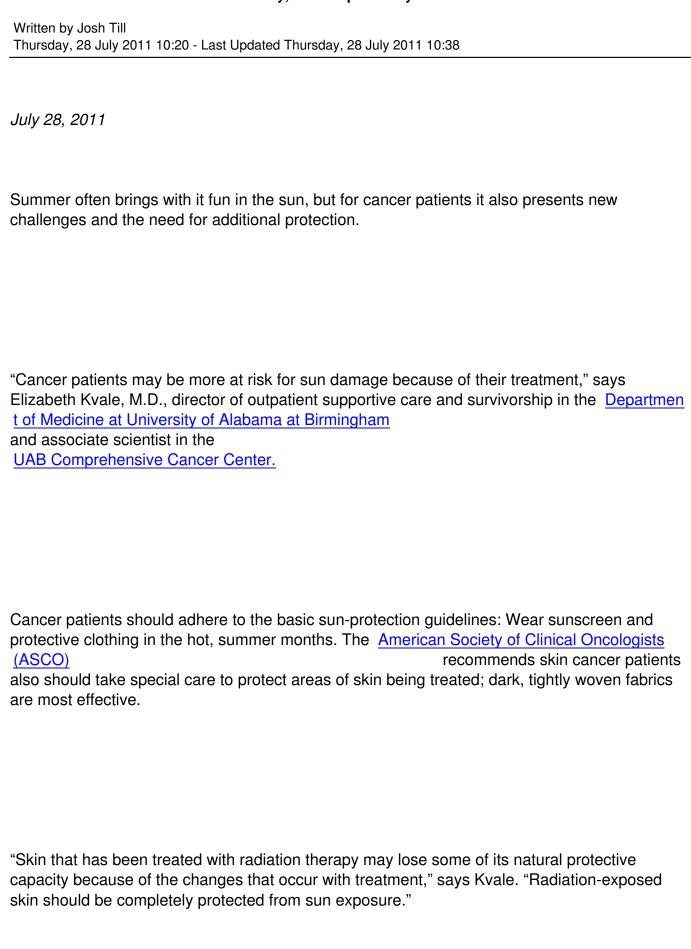
Cancer Patients Need Extra Sun Safety, UAB Experts Say



Cancer Patients Need Extra Sun Safety, UAB Experts Say

Written by Josh Till Thursday, 28 July 2011 10:20 - Last Updated Thursday, 28 July 2011 10:38

Patients receiving chemotherapy also are more sensitive to the sun's rays. Kvale says it is important to cover surgical scars because they may darken if exposed to the sun, and patients who lose their hair during treatment should protect the scalp because it can burn easily.

"Pediatric cancer patients, survivors and their caregivers should be especially attentive to sun safety," adds Kvale. Studies have shown that extended exposure to the sun is linked to the development of skin cancers for everyone, and children have a significantly elevated risk of developing serious skin cancer as a long-term consequence from sunburn.

Heat is also an enemy to cancer patients, who may be more susceptible to dehydration or heat exhaustion from side-effects of cancer treatment, such as vomiting, diarrhea and nausea. Patients should drink fluids throughout the day, chew on ice chips to relieve dry mouth, avoid beverages with alcohol or caffeine and eat fruits and vegetables with high fluid content.

About the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center

The UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center is among the 40 cancer centers in the nation to meet the stringent criteria for the National Cancer Institute's comprehensive designation. The center is a leader in groundbreaking research, reducing cancer disparities and leading-edge patient care.