

Additional Resource

Photosensitising Medications

Some substances can cause a person's skin or eyes to be abnormally sensitive to UV radiation. These substances are called photosensitisers. Many medications are linked to photosensitivity.

Medication Examples

Antibiotics – Tetracyclines – Fluoroquinolones (eg ciprofloxacin) – Sulfonamides

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (eg Nurofen® & Voltaren®) – Ibuprofen – Naproxen
– Ketoprofen – Celecoxib

Diuretics (water pills) – Frusemide – Bumetanide – Hydrochlorothiazide
Retinoids (skin creams) – Isotretinoin – Acitretin

Hypoglycaemics (diabetic medication) – Sulfonylureas (eg glipizide, glyburide)

Antipsychotics – Phenothiazines (eg chlorpromazine, fluphenazine)
– Thioxanthenes (eg chlorprothixene)

Pro-photosensitisers (cancer treatment) – 5-aminolevulinic acid – Methyl-5-aminolevulinic acid
– Photofrin 13

Targeted therapies (cancer treatment, including chemotherapy) – Vemurafenib (50%)
– Dabrafenib – Imatinib – Vandetanib – Fluorouracil

Other drugs (heart medication, blood pressure medication, antifungal medication) – Amiodarone –
Hydroxychloroquine – Diltiazem – Enalapril – Quinine – Dapsone – Quinidine – Voriconazole

(Credit: Worksafe New Zealand and DermNet New Zealand)