

New Year's Wishes

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On behalf of the Editorial Board of *Cutis*[®], I would like to wish all of our readers a happy 2009. This past year has been a long and difficult one for many in this country and around the world, and hopefully 2009 will be a lot better. Rather than dwell on the depressing economic issues of our times, I recently considered a few smaller ways that my daily practice, and maybe yours, could be a lot less frustrating, if only reality were different.

1. I wish that patients who present with bug bites would believe me when I tell them they have bites. I cannot tell you how many biopsies I have performed to prove arthropod assault to my doubting patients.

2. I wish that patients would not look at me incredulously or laugh when I tell them they should wear sunscreen every day. Some patients inquire, "I should wear sunscreen even if I am not going outside?" I tell patients that unless they travel around in a secret network of tunnels or caves, they do go outside and sunscreen is advisable.

3. I wish that patients would follow up somewhat regularly for skin cancer screenings. Recently, one patient noted that his last full examination had been 20 years ago. I told him, going forward, to try to improve on the 5 screenings per century plan.

4. I wish that every time I send a patient for laboratory test results for the iPLEDGE[™] system (a

computer-based risk management program designed for patients treated with isotretinoin), they actually go and go on time. Related to this, I wish that every patient would remember to fill their prescription for isotretinoin within the 7-day limit.

5. I wish that managed care companies would stop sending me faxes asking if my patients really need the large tubes of acne medication I prescribe or if a smaller size would suffice.

6. Actually, I wish I never got any faxes concerning acne therapy, including denials, prior authorizations, and preferred formulary alternatives.

7. I wish that patients would let me know that there was an issue obtaining their prescription therapies *prior* to their 2-month follow-up when they inform me that they have not been utilizing any therapy because of said issue. Therefore, they have seen no improvement in their condition. I tell these individuals that we do have a telephone.

8. I wish that Medicare would stop proposing fee decreases every year.

9. I hope that I can find another good source for pens because I can no longer get them from pharmaceutical representatives in 2009. The last time I remember buying pens was when I went shopping for school supplies all those years ago. Maybe it is a sign that it is time for an electronic medical record.

10. In 2009, I would like to receive more real e-mails than spam. Just deleting these extraneous e-mails is too time consuming.

These random musings aside, I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2009, and thank you for your continued support and readership of *Cutis*.

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