

This leaflet has been written to provide you with information on male genital protection during whole body ultraviolet treatments with UVB (ultraviolet B) or PUVA (ultraviolet A and psoralen tablets).

Why do I Need Genital Protection?

The genital skin may be more sensitive than other areas to exposure to ultraviolet light. To minimise exposure and to protect the genital skin during a course of phototherapy, we advise some form of genital protection is worn.

How Should I Use Genital Protection?

Whichever style of protection is chosen it should be:

- Completely covering the scrotum and penis
- Fitted well enough that it will not slip or fall off
- Made of a material thick enough to block ultraviolet light
- Worn for **every** treatment

What Style Of Genital Protection Should I Use?

An ankle sock is ideal as this shields the whole genital area but allows the groin and buttocks to be treated by the ultraviolet.

Jockstraps, underpants and boxers are less suitable as areas of skin which may require treatment are covered. There is also a potential for burn-lines if the garment is not in exactly the same position for each treatment. However, phototherapy nurses may advise specific patients that this method of genital protection is more appropriate.

What If My Skin Condition Affects My Genital Area?

If your genital skin is affected by the skin condition you are having treated by ultraviolet light please inform the phototherapy doctors or nurses. It may be possible to use a cream or an ointment to that area. It is against medical advice to expose your genital area to the ultraviolet treatment and if you wish to do this you will need to sign a disclaimer.

Where Can I Find Out More About Male Genital Protection?

Further patient information on male genital protection is available online in the patient information sections:

British Association of Dermatologists: www.bad.org.uk

Photonet (National Managed Clinical Network for Phototherapy): www.photonet.scot.nhs.uk