



# What is photopheresis?

Photopheresis is a medical treatment prescribed by your doctor. The process separates out some of your white blood cells (WBCs) from the rest of your blood and exposes them to ultraviolet light after adding a drug, UVADEX® (methoxsalen). When exposed to ultraviolet A (UVA) light, the drug becomes activated, which then destroys diseased white blood cells. Depending on your medical condition, this may help your body control the cells that contribute to your disease.

## How does photopheresis work?

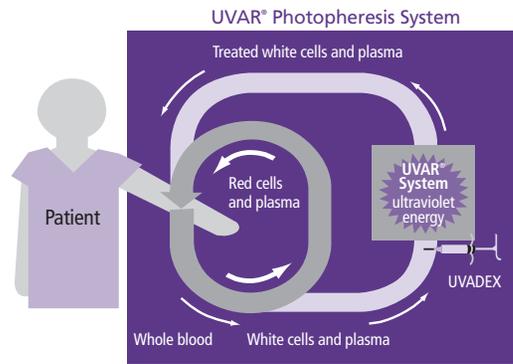
There are several possible theories on the way photopheresis works. One theory is that when the treated white cells are returned to the body, the immune system senses a difference and the body works to eliminate these cells and others like them. This medicine is always administered by a specialized doctor who can best explain exactly what is happening.

## What is photopheresis used for?

Currently photopheresis is indicated to alleviate skin problems associated with Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma (CTCL). In CTCL, a certain kind of T lymphocyte may be contributing to problems you are experiencing with your skin.

## What happens to me during photopheresis?

After your doctor prescribes photopheresis, a trained medical person inserts a needle or catheter into your vein. Some of your blood is then removed, just like when you have a blood test or give blood. This blood goes into a machine that separates the blood cells. Everything is returned to you immediately, except your white blood cells. These are treated with UVADEX and then moved through a light panel so that the UVA light can reach them. After the light therapy, your white blood cells are returned to you.



## Does the procedure hurt?

Photopheresis hurts about the same as the needle stick you feel when you give blood or have a blood test.

## How long does it take?

The time may vary from patient to patient and sometimes from treatment to treatment. It usually takes three hours or less from start to finish.

## How often do I need a treatment?

That depends on your medical condition and your doctor's assessment. For patients with CTCL, two successive treatments a month are recommended. Your doctor will select a schedule best suited to your needs.

## Does photopheresis have side effects?

Like all therapies especially those involving medicine, photopheresis can cause some unwanted effects. Any complication that happens from a needle stick can happen during photopheresis, such as a small chance of infection. Since you will have a small part of your blood volume outside of your body for a short period, you might feel weak or dizzy during or immediately after the procedure. Anything that you experience should be reported to the medical staff.

Since a little of your blood stays in the tubing, your doctor will need to watch your blood pressure and blood count.

You may be exposed to a small amount of UVADEX when the white blood cells are returned to your body. This may make you more sensitive to sunlight. If you have any diseases that make you more sensitive to light or you are taking any medicines that make you more sensitive to the sun, discuss this with your doctor. A few patients have reported low-grade fever, or increased redness of skin 6 to 8 hours after a treatment.

## Since this treatment involves blood, are there any risks?

Photopheresis is done with sterile techniques and the only blood you will be exposed to is your own. A new sterile kit is used for each treatment procedure. Your blood touches no other blood.

Your doctor should be aware of your blood counts and blood pressure and determine if you will be able to tolerate the temporary removal of some of your blood for two or more hours.

Patients who have an allergy to psoralen drugs should not have photopheresis treatments.

## What do I do after a treatment?

For twenty-four hours after a treatment, you should wear wrap-around sunglasses that provide UVA light protection. Avoid sunlight for a day and protect any exposed skin with sun block (at least SPF15), especially if you have a history of skin cancer.

## Will photopheresis work for me?

Your doctor has prescribed this treatment because he or she hopes there will be a benefit for you. Everyone is different and photopheresis may not work for you. Clinical trial patient data indicates that about one half the patients studied saw some improvement in their skin involvement. It generally takes several treatments to see an effect.