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Some Docs Worry Lip Gloss May Increase Cancer Risk

(WCCO) Look at any fashion magazine and you'll see the trend with lips these days is shiny, glossy and glam.

However, now there are questions over the health risks of the glosses that give your lips that sensual shine.

Some doctors said putting on gloss is like putting a magnifying lens on your lips, and increasing your vulnerability to dangerous sun exposure.

Your lip gloss may be popping, but it could cause be a hazard to your health. Some doctors think the shiny substance and the sun don't mix.

"I see skin cancer of the lips all the time, especially on the lower lips because the sun comes in from the top and hits the lower lip," said Dr. Charles Crutchfield III.

Each year in the U.S. more than 3,500 people are diagnosed with skin cancer of the lips. Although there is no scientific proof, some doctors believe lip gloss is actually intensifying the suns warm rays.

"It's almost like a magnifying glass," said the Eagan Dermatologist. "It's making the top layer of the skin a little more transparent so the ultraviolet rays can penetrate deeper and cause more damage," said Dr. Crutchfield.

All that lip gloss and sun could cause another condition -- actinic keratosis. While it's not cancerous, it will make your lips look anything but luscious.

"It is nasty looking and I see it all the time. It usually starts out as something that looks like chronic dry chapped lips, but eventually it could turn into little scaly bumps on the lips," said Crutchfield.

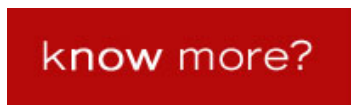
Women we talked with say it would be tough to ditch the gloss, but hearing the risks might be enough to make them at least look for other options.

"I'm a red head and I have fair skin anyway, so that would be something I would just stop using all together and just wear lipstick instead," said Katie Bellfield.

"I'd think twice, but I don't know if I'd stop using it," said Kaila Hermel.

"I'd be more likely to wear it in the sun, so it might make me think twice," said Kimberly Johnson.

If you're married to your gloss, you can find a good lip balm with sunscreen and put that on underneath your lip gloss.



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Some doctors said putting on gloss is like putting a magnifying lens on your lips, and increasing your vulnerability to dangerous sun exposure. CBS

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