processed in triplicate and verified by sequencing with GAPDH as the internal standard. Expression of mRNA was calculated by the delta threshold cycle. $P<.05$ (2-tailed, Mann-Whitney test), was considered significant.

Results. Retinoic acid receptor $\alpha$, RAR$\beta$, RAR$\gamma$, and RAR$\beta2.4$ amplified in 28 of 28 BCC samples and 22 of 22 SCC samples; RAR$\beta1$, in 27 of 28 BCCs and 22 of 22 SCC; and RAR$\beta1^*$, in 24 of 28 BCC and 2 of 22 SCC. Quantitatively, RAR$\alpha$ was 3.46-fold increased ($P<.001$); RAR$\gamma$, 1.63-fold increased ($P=.001$); and RAR$\beta1^*$, 23.73-fold increased in BCCs compared with SCCs ($P=.03$) (Figure 1 and Figure 2), but only 2 SCCs showed amplification for RAR$\beta1^*$. The findings for RAR$\beta$, RAR$\beta1$, and RAR$\beta2.4$ were indistinct.

Comment. Based on the different retinoid sensitivity of BCC and SCC, we expected RAR isoform differences. Interestingly, only 2 of 22 SCCs expressed RAR$\beta1^*$ at a much lower level than BCCs (9%). In contrast to lung cancer, RAR$\beta1^*$ does not seem to be pivotal for retinoid chemoprevention in SCC. Levels of RAR$\alpha$ and RAR$\gamma$ were higher in BCC than in SCC, which fits with reported RAR and retinoid X receptor (RXR) isoform expression.2

Other factors may mediate chemoprevention. Acitretin binds with low affinity to RARs but with high affinity to cellular retinoic acid binding proteins (CRABPs). Acitretin shifts the distribution of endogenous tretinoin from CRABPs to RXR-RXR heterocomplexes, potentiating its effect. Tazarotene specifically activates RAR$\beta$ and RAR$\gamma$ and only weakly activates RAR$\alpha$ with chemopreventive effect on BCC in Pch1$\pm$ mice.3 In human lung cancer, RAR$\beta4$ seems carcinogenic.4 Differential activation of RAR isoforms may therefore have carcinogenic or anticarcinogenic effects as shown by the relative superiority of tazarotene in BCC over other retinoid-related compounds with simultaneous RAR$\alpha$ and RAR$\beta$ isoform activation.3

In summary, RAR isoform mRNA expression differs between BCC and SCC. Unlike in lung cancer, the mRNA levels of the recently reported isoform RAR$\beta1^*$ do not explain SCC retinoid sensitivity. Rather, we assume, the relative sensitivity to retinoid treatment of SCC vs BCC is mediated by differential RAR activation or indirect effects such as shifting endogenous retinoids from CRABPs to RAR-RXR heterocomplexes.

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Teledermatology From a Combat Zone

Historically, dermatologic conditions account for between 15% and 75% of all outpatient visits in the combat environment during wartime.1 Telemedicine has proven to be an effective adjunct to extend dermatologic services to remote locations.2 Since July 2004, the US Army has operated a store-and-forward teledermatology consult service for deployed medical providers. This service is responsible for a substantial number of consults and enhances the care of deployed service members worldwide. Herein, we outline the uniqueness of this program and evaluate the cost savings.

Methods. We reviewed store-and-forward teledermatology consults that military health care providers generated between January 2005 and January 2009 while deployed with the US Army. Deployed health care providers
A total of 2157 patients could be managed in Iraq, which is an overall cost savings of approximately 30.4 million dollars. One additional benefit of teledermatology in the combat setting is the calculable savings of avoiding the risk of travel in a war zone.

This study demonstrates the role and cost savings of teledermatology in the combat setting. Dermatologic conditions remain a common complaint among deployed soldiers, and teledermatology can substantially reduce the number of patients who need to be evacuated for treatment, resulting in substantial cost savings.

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A Potential Association Between Alopecia Areata and Narcolepsy

To our knowledge, narcolepsy was first associated with alopecia areata (AA) in the Spanish-language literature in 1992. The author described 2 patients with alopecia universalis and 1 with AA who subsequently developed symptoms suggestive of narcolepsy. In all 3 cases, the diagnosis of narcolepsy was made.