

Cross Sectional Analysis of Dermatoscope Features and Pricing



Sarah Garzione^{1,2}, BA, Sydney Kenney¹, BS, Dina Ghanim¹, BA, Patrick McCleskey^{1,3}, MD

Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine¹ and California Institute of Technology², Pasadena, CA

Kaiser Permanente Department of Dermatology, Oakland, CA³



Background

- Despite an increased usage in dermatoscopy in primary care, many family medicine physicians report dermatoscope costs being a major barrier to incorporating dermatoscopy into their practice.
- For clinical utility determination, the NPJ Dermatoscope Guidelines state that a dermatoscope should have the following capabilities: at least 10X magnification, polarized and nonpolarized modes, contact capabilities, and compatibility with phones or computers.
- The purpose of our research was to find a range of affordable, handheld dermatoscopes for dermatologists to recommend to colleagues looking to utilize dermatoscopy in the primary care setting.
- The clinical capabilities of dermatoscopes available for sale online are highly relevant for primary care physicians and dermatologists because they directly impact diagnostic accuracy, workflow efficiency, and the ability to implement evidence-based skin cancer screening and teledermatology practices.

Methods

- We manually searched electronic platforms including Google, eBay, DermNet, and Amazon for “dermatoscope”, “dermascope”, and “dermoscope”. We selected these search engines as the most frequently used search platforms in the United States, as of 2024. Results were then stratified by their clinical utility status.
- Though technically appropriate for dermoscopy, many models had drawbacks including lacking non-contact capabilities, no ability to recharge, and the requirement for the instrument to be attached to a smart device. We have included those which require a smart device for functioning in the bottom portion of the table.
- In addition to our clinical criteria, we sought sources that had a minimum supply of (3) dermatoscopes for purchase in an endeavor to rule out any isolated, unauthorized merchants from our search.

Name	Site(s)	Brand	Cost New (US \$)	Cost Used (US \$)	Aperture (mm)	Description
Meets all Criteria alone						
IDS-1000	Illuco	Illuco	425	--	18	B
DE-3100	Amazon	IBOULO	499	--	30	B P
IDS-1000 Plus	Illuco	Illuco	525	--	18	B P
DE-4100	Amazon	IBOULO	699	--	32	B P
DL200 HR	Amazon, Dermatoscopes, DermLite, eBay	DermLite	1050	1050	25	P R
Delta One	Heinederm, eBay	Heine	1175	1114	21	P R
DL3N	Dermatoscopes	DermLite, eBay	1395	1395	25	P R
IDS-1100	Illuco	Illuco	1495	--		P R
DL4	Amazon, Dermatoscopes, DermLite, eBay	DermLite	1595	1595	30	P R
IDS-1100C	Illuco	Illuco	1595	--	25	P R
DL5	Amazon, DermLite, eBay	DermLite	1795	1795	32	P R
Dermatoscope Delta 30 Pro	Heinederm	Heine	1980	1769	30	P R
Contact Only						
VISIONMED D-scope	Opticlar	Opticlar	1114	--	23	C P R
Mini 3000 Set	Heinederm	Heine	1122	--	14	C
Delta 20T	Amazon, Heine	Heine	1761-2998	--	20	B C P
Smartphone or Tablet Required						
DL1 Basic	DermLite	DermLite	395	--	15	B P S
Technology MoleScope II	Dermnetz, Dermengine	MetaOptima	399	--	16	P R S
DL1	Amazon, DermLite, eBay	DermLite	525-535	535	15	P R S
Handyscope	Amazon, DermLite, eBay, Fotofinder	DermLite	795	405	U	P R S
IC1	Heinederm	Heine	1001	--	21	P S
FotoX	DermLite, eBay	DermLite	1295	1295	30	P R S

Table 1 (above):

Dermoscopes meeting clinical criteria of polarized light, minimum 10X magnification, and contact capabilities available for commercial purchase online.

Legend:

P = phone capability, B = battery-operated, C = contact-only, R = rechargeable, S = smartphone or tablet required

Discussion

- Results demonstrated that though there are many tools marketed as dermatoscopes available for online purchase, less than one-third are appropriate for use in primary care based on clinical dermatoscopy guidelines.
- Less than half of commercially available dermatoscopes advertised were magnified at least 10X, and over 37% did not have polarized light for visualization. These two criteria were the most frequently absent in product features, yet they are essential components of clinical dermatoscopy for optimal and reliable diagnostic determinations.
- Prices ranged from \$395 to nearly \$3,000, with more expensive models tending to have greater aperture settings and mildly improved optics.
- By being informed of the range of clinically-useful dermatoscopes available for purchase, primary care physicians may be one step closer to incorporating dermoscopy into their clinical practice.

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Disclosures

Nothing To Disclose –The authors of this abstract have indicated that they have no conflicts of interest that relate to the content of this abstract.