

The indications for radiation therapy after excision of abnormal scars
by using the JSW scar scale

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Radiation therapy after keloid excision can reduce the risk of keloid recurrence. However, since radiation therapy associates with several risks itself, the indications of radiation therapy have to date depended on the value judgements of each physician.

In 2015, the Japan Scar Workshop (JSW) provided the JSW Scar Scale (JSS), which aids pathological scar evaluation by scoring the risk factors of individual patients and the affected areas. To determine whether JSS can serve as an indicator for radiation therapy, we used the JSS to generate scores for the surgical site just after excision and closure. We then compared the JSS scores of the patients who did or did not undergo postoperative radiation therapy.

In patients with immediate postoperative JSS scores of 6–15, the patients who did not receive radiation therapy were more likely to experience a recurrence than patients who did receive radiation therapy (69% *versus* 39%).

We conclude that JSS can be a useful tool for predicting postoperative recurrence risk.