

ACNE, ROSACEA, AND RELATED DISORDERS (INCLUDING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA)

## EVALUATION OF THE PREVALENCE, RISK FACTORS, CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS, AND BURDEN OF ACNE SCARS AMONG ACTIVE ACNE PATIENTS IN BRAZIL, FRANCE AND THE USA

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**Introduction:** Acne is one of the most common skin diseases worldwide, and scarring is an important and common sequelae of the disease. However, there is still a need for improved understanding of the occurrence, incidence, and risk factors of scarring.

**Objectives:** Among a population of active acne patients who are consulting a dermatologist: estimate acne scar prevalence, identify/quantify acne scarring risk factors, and describe clinical characteristics of patients with acne scars.

**Methods:** Dermatologists (Brazil, n = 120; France, n = 106; USA, n = 120) filled out a census form for each active acne patient seen in consultation over 5 consecutive days. For the first 4 patients with scars (the "scar cohort"), a case report form and a short questionnaire were filled out by the dermatologist and patient, respectively. Disease severity was assessed using a 5-point investigator global assessment scale.

**Results:** The number of patients analysed was: Brazil, n = 1718 (n = 480 survey respondents with scars); France, n = 1366 (n = 420 survey respondents with scars); and the USA, n = 1972 (n = 480 survey respondents with scars). Among active acne patients, 44% had scars in Brazil, 37% in France, and 43% in the USA. Among patients in Brazil, France, and the USA with different acne severities; 29.9%, 22.4%, and 27.9% of almost clear/mild patients had scars; 54.8%, 47.9%, and 50.7% of moderate patients had scars; and 73.8%, 78.6%, and 76.6% of severe/very severe patients had scars, respectively.

Multivariate analysis revealed that severity, time between acne onset and effective treatment, and acne relapse were significant risk factors of scar development.



Conclusions: Although scars are more frequent in severe/very severe disease, scarring is frequent among patients with active acne and acne of any severity can lead to scarring. Thus, early treatment may effectively decrease acne scarring risk.

