



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

## THE IMPORTANCE OF POWER DOPPLER ULTRASOUND EXAMINATION IN CLINICAL DAILY PRACTICE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA

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**Introduction:** Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a debilitating chronic, recurrent, inflammatory cutaneous disease of the hair follicle that usually presents with painful, deep and inflamed lesions in the body areas with apocrine glands, most frequently the axillary, groin and anogenital regions. This entity is difficult to manage since it can be difficult to determine the true nature and extension of the lesions. Power Doppler (PD) ultrasound allows real-time visualization of the cutaneous structures under examination, defining the type of lesion, its anatomical extension, and the degree of inflammatory activity, which lets adequate patient management.

**Objective:** To assess the importance of PD ultrasound in the diagnosis, staging and the management of therapy in patients with HS.

**Materials and Methods:** We performed PD ultrasound in 10 children ( $\leq 18$  years old) and 73 adult patient with clinically positive criteria for HS. Sonographic scoring of HS (SOS-HS) was used to stage the cases sonographically and compared to the traditional disease severity measured by Hurley stages.

**Results:** Ultrasonography discovered non-clinically evident HS lesions, notably subclinical pseudocysts were found in 92% of the cases, fluid collections in 69%, and fistulous tracts in 33%. Agreement between Hurley staging and SOS-HS was found in 72.7% of patients: 66% of cases were SOS-HS stage II, 21% of cases were SOS-HS stage III. In 81% of cases, management was modified after the ultrasound examination.

**Conclusions:** PD ultrasound can be a reliable and safe imaging tool to support diagnosis and staging and may help in the non-invasive monitoring of treatment in children and adult patients with HS.

