



ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

SATISFACTORY TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS. A REGIONAL COMPARISON.

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Introduction: The study Atopic Health determines nationwide for the first time the regional distribution of the degree of satisfactory treatment regarding atopic dermatitis (AD). Satisfactory treatment of this common disease was analyzed in 16 of Germany's 17 districts (without Bremen) for statutory health insurance (Kassenärztliche Vereinigung - KV). The district North Rhine Westphalia was divided in: North Rhine and Westphalia Lippe.

Objective: Regional analysis of the satisfactory treatment of AD in Germany based on representative data.

Materials and Methods: In the non-interventional cross-sectional study the analysis was carried out on the basis of 1548 out of 1678 questionnaires from 174 dermatological centers (dermatologists' offices, hospitals) nationwide. The questionnaire presented to the patients offered several options to describe their satisfaction according to the quality of their treatment.

Results: Satisfactory treatment is recorded on a scale from 1 = very satisfied to 4 = very dissatisfied. The lower the mean, the happier the patients were. In the mean value comparison satisfaction with treatment is 1.89 ± 0.76 ($n = 1481$) throughout Germany. In the one-factorial analysis of variability among the KV regions, significant differences ($p \leq 0.001$) are shown. The best mean values (1.63) observed were found in Saxony-Anhalt ($n = 89$) and Rhineland-Palatinate ($n = 8$). The most dissatisfied patients were in the Saarland (2.13, $n = 30$).

Conclusions: The amount of satisfactory treatment in the study reveals considerable regional differences in the individual districts. On the whole satisfactory treatment in Germany is usually good (1.89 $n = 1481$). In spite of the generally high standard of treatment for atopic dermatitis the detailed results make clear that additional efforts to further improvements are to be made at the national level and worldwide e.g. in China.





because of the large population. Therefore the study Atopic Health II has started to verify the changes.

