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CHRONIC HAND ECZEMA: A PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE SWISS CARPE REGISTRY FOCUSING ON FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH CLINICAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT

Dagmar Simon⁽¹⁾ - Simone Cazzaniga⁽²⁾ - Luca Borradori⁽³⁾

Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University Of Bern, Department Of Dermatology, Bern, Switzerland⁽¹⁾ - University Of Bern, 3. Graduate School For Cellular And Biomedical Sciences, University Of Bern, Bern, Switzerland⁽²⁾ - Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, University Of Bern, Department Of Dermatology, Bern, Switzerland⁽³⁾

Background: Hand eczema (HE) is common and may follow a chronic disease course. So far, prospective studies investigating the risk factors for disease progression as a prerequisite for a targeted prevention are scarce.

Objective: To evaluate the overall association of HE-associated factors with clinical and quality of life (QoL) improvement of the disease during a follow-up of two years.

Methods: Data of the prospective patients cohort followed by the Swiss chronic hand eczema (CHE) registry on long-term patient management (CARPE-CH) were analyzed by means of classical regression as well as semantic map analyses.

Results: Both severity of HE and quality of life (QoL) significantly improved over the period of 2 years ($p < 0.001$). Still, 20% of patients had moderate to severe HE after 2-years follow-up. As factors associated with impaired CHE clinical course and QoL, environmental exposures, male gender, occupational skin disease, job loss or change at baseline, allergic contact dermatitis, continuous disease course, palmar localization, and widespread eczema were identified.

Conclusions: The analysis of prospective data from the CARPE-CH registry demonstrates a complex pattern of associations among variables as shown by semantic map and classical statistical analyses. Factors related to occupational exposure had the highest impact on CHE.

