



PSORIASIS

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PSORIASIS TREATMENT AND DISEASE: WHICH DIFFERENT SOURCES DO PATIENTS USE? RESULTS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL SURVEY

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Introduction: Psoriasis is a chronic immune-mediated disease that negatively affects the quality of life of patients. Awareness of the disease and its treatment is important for its management. Lack of access to healthcare professional can lead to a delay in appropriate treatment of psoriasis and increased morbidity.

Objective: This international survey investigated the quantity and quality of psoriasis information received by patients from physicians.

Methods: Data were collected from patients with $\geq 3\%$ skin involvement in the past or at present in Australia, Canada, 17 European, 4 Asian, and 3 South American countries using a structured, web-based interview in their local language. Patients were on topical, psoralen and ultraviolet A/phototherapy, non-biologic systemic therapy or biological treatment. Descriptive, univariate, and multivariate regression analysis were conducted to understand the influence of various factors on the quantity and quality of information.

Results: Overall, 2361 patients (43% male; mean age 42 years) with psoriasis were surveyed between July 2016 and May 2017. Patients rated the quantity and quality of information received from their physicians at a mean of 6.56 and 6.78, respectively (10 point as maximum). Countries, body surface area $< 3\%$, and retirement were associated with higher ratings of this information. 70% of patients had searched for additional psoriasis treatment information after consultation with their physicians. Major sources of information were friends/family (32%), articles (32%), pharmacist (28%), and product info leaflet (25%).





Patients were interested in seeking information on alternative treatments (47%), risk-benefit of treatment (44%), realistic expectation of treatment effectiveness (39%), and day-to-day burden (33%) from their physician. Approximately two-thirds of patients had access to healthcare professionals between their scheduled appointments for treatment-related queries.

Conclusion: For 70% of the patients, physician is not the only source of information they acquire about their disease, implying the potential need for further improvement in patient-physician communication.

