



PSORIASIS

STUDY OF EMPATHY AMONG THE PARTNERS OF PSORIASIS PATIENTS

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Introduction: Patients with psoriasis have lowered QoL and are especially at risk of social stigmatization and discrimination. Only few studies have investigated the impact on the QoL of partners of psoriasis patients.

Objective: Gauge the effect of clinical severity and lowered QoL of psoriasis patients on the QoL of their partner.

Materials and methods: This was a multicenter observational study conducted in psoriasis patients by private and hospital-based dermatologists. It was divided into three parts: Evaluation by the physician, by the patient, by the partner. The FamilyPso is a validated questionnaire specific to psoriasis.

Results: 163 men and 111 women were included. The questionnaire return rate among partners (n=185) was 75%. Of the patients whose partner responded, 92 had moderate-to-severe psoriasis. The age of the patient; length of time since diagnosis with psoriasis and treatment with a biotherapy were not predictive factors of a negative impact on the partner's QoL.

The impact on the partner's QoL was significantly greater among the partners of patients suffering from severe clinical forms of psoriasis ($p < 0.05$). The effect of psoriasis on the partners' mental health as measured by the SF12-mental-dimension was significantly greater among partners of female patients than among those of male patients.

Discussion: This was the first study conducted in France designed to investigate the effect of psoriasis on patients' partners. It clearly demonstrated a relationship between psoriasis severity and impact on the partner's QoL, thereby confirming the utility of administering a QoL-scale. Our study offers us a better understanding of the impact of psoriasis on the patients' family environment, thereby laying the basis for improved patient education. By giving consideration to the psychological repercussions for partners and negative impact on





their QoL, the disease and its treatments are likely to be better accepted by psoriasis patients.

