



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

## SEVER CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY SKIN DISEASE – LESS INDIVIDUALS SEEK DERMATOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE THAN EXPECTED.

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**Introduction:** Worldwide, chronic inflammatory skin diseases display an enormous burden for many individuals. Psoriasis, atopic eczema and urticaria are widely known representatives in this concern. With new insights in pathogenesis and modern therapies on the rise, patient-centred care seems to improve. However, before targeting the optimisation of treatment, it is important to investigate if affected people can be reached by dermatologists.

**Objective:** To analyse the accessibility of patients with severe chronic inflammatory skin diseases in an office-based setting.

**Material and Methods:** All Bavarian office-based dermatologists (n = 499) received a questionnaire within the framework of a non-interventional cross-sectional study. They were selected using the database of the KVB (Kassenärztlichen Vereinigung Bayerns) and supplemented using the webpages of the selected physicians. The KVB is an institution listing all physicians who are allowed to treat patients who are part of the statutory health insurance in Bavaria. Estimations were based on the self-stated number of patients currently treated and calculations including respective published data on prevalence and severity of moderate to severe psoriasis, moderate to severe atopic eczema and chronic spontaneous urticaria.

**Results:** Of the contacted dermatologists, 136 participated (53 women, 83 men; mean age 53.2 ± 8.5) which results in a response-rate of 27.3%. About 75.6% of individuals with moderate to severe psoriasis, 81.8% of those with moderate to severe atopic eczema and 93.8% of individuals with chronic spontaneous urticaria seem to not seek help by an office-based dermatologist at the time of the study.

**Conclusions:** Even, when considering dermatological hospitals and the refractory nature of the disease, the number of individuals not seeing a doctor remains high. In order to strengthen patient-centered care, this gap has to be addressed and investigated via





broader more representative studies.

