



ACNE, ROSACEA, AND RELATED DISORDERS (INCLUDING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA)

DAILY COPING WITH DISEASE EXACERBATION IN HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA PATIENTS. A RETROSPECTIVE CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN 171 PATIENTS.

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Background: The challenges in managing Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) and the resulting disease burden for Patients and the health system have recently gained attention. According to the Canadian Hidradenitis Suppurativa Foundation, a patient has consulted five different doctors and has had 17 appointments over a period of eight years until the proper diagnosis is posed.

Objectives: The challenges of managing HS in daily life, especially handling of acute abscess formation, hygienic measures and everyday wound treatment has thus far not been investigated.

We therefore performed a retrospective cross-sectional study in 171 patients that have already been diagnosed with HS.

Methods: Between October 2017 and March 2018 Patients from four different self-support social media groups were asked to fill out a questionnaire including 36 questions.

The focus of questions lay on handling of acute abscess formation, hygienic measures, the cost, the source and kind of wound dressing / treatment was being used.

In addition to key demographics and key risk factors, Hurley and IHS4 disease Score were interrogated.

Results: The sample included 171 questionnaires. Only 16% of Patients sought medical consultation in acute Abscess. Nearly 46% of Patients perform a self-Incision of Abscesses.

36% of Patients receive their wound dressing prescribed by a medical professional. Whereas OTC Wound Dressings are used by more than two thirds of patients.

Conclusion: Only a small portion of patients with a known diagnosis of HS seek professional medical advice in acute coping with disease. The majority of patients tend to take things in their own hands, whether it be acute treatment or wound care. Besides Nurses and Physicians, Pharmacists play an important, yet undiscovered role in Patient Care in HS.

