

STIGMADERM- Stigmatization experience of patients with common skin diseases

Presentation

The psychological burden of skin diseases is an issue of increasing concern worldwide. Skin diseases are the fourth leading cause of non-fatal disease in the recent Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. Most skin conditions are non-fatal and chronic. Globally, the most prevalent conditions are skin infections, acne, pruritus and eczema. The psychosocial impact of common skin disease is expected to be large worldwide but little research in this area has been undertaken.

Many patients with chronic skin disease experience stigmatization which can have serious consequences on their life leading to social isolation, exclusion and mental health problems, even suicidal ideation. Stigmatization is part of the burden of skin diseases and there is a need to explore stigmatization globally in order to enable healthcare professionals to target appropriate intervention programs.

The study is an observational cross-sectional multicenter study across 16 countries comparing stigmatization in patients with skin disease and controls. Consecutive patients have been recruited in outpatient clinics and completed validated questionnaires prior to a clinical examination. In addition to sociodemographic background information, mood disorders are assessed by short versions of the Patient Health Questionnaire and the General Anxiety Disorder Assessment; general health assessed by the EuroQol-Visual Analogue Scale; stigmatization experience assessed by the Perceived Stigmatization Questionnaire; stress assessed by the Perceived Stress Scale and body image assessed by the Dysmorphic Concern Questionnaire. So far 8500 participants have been enrolled in the study and the data analysis is in process.

The study protocol was approved by the local Ethical Committee at each site. The results of the study will be disseminated by publications in international peer-reviewed journals and presented at international conferences and general public conferences. Results will influence support intervention and management of patients with skin disease across the world. Trial registration number DRKS00012745;

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