Validity of the EuroQol-5D in patients with pemphigus vulgaris and pemphigus foliaceus

These authors from Hungary highlight that no studies to date have employed the EuroQol EQ-5D questionnaire to assess health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in patients with pemphigus. Their aim with this study was to evaluate the HRQoL of patients with pemphigus by the EQ-5D and to analyse the convergent and known-groups validity of the EQ-5D in this patient population. To do this they carried out a multicentre cross-sectional study between 2014 and 2017. Their outcome measures included the five-level EQ-5D, Dermatology Life Quality Index, Autoimmune Bullous Skin Disorder Intensity Score and an average pain-intensity visual analogue scale for the past 3 months. In total 109 consecutive patients with pemphigus were recruited into the study (mean age 57 years, 64% women); the results are presented in full in this issue of the journal. The authors summarize that this was the first study to employ the EQ-5D questionnaire in pemphigus. They found the EQ-5D to be a valid measure of HRQoL in patients with pemphigus that can be useful both in clinical practice and in economic evaluations to assess the health gains associated with new effective treatments.

Risk factors for treatment failure in scabies: a cohort study

Their aim with this study was to identify predictors of treatment failure of scabies in ambulatory populations. They performed a multicentre study to compare the clinical characteristics and treatment modalities of a group of patients with scabies treated successfully with those of another group who were not cured 3 months after antiscabies treatment. In total 210 patients with a diagnosis of scabies were included, comprising 98 patients in the treatment success group and 112 in the treatment failure group. The authors’ results are presented in full in this issue of the BJD. They conclude that the use of topical benzoyl benzoate alone and a single intake (as opposed to two intakes) of ivermectin were predictors of treatment failure.

Cryosurgery combined with topical interventions for actinic keratoses: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Heppt and colleagues from Munich, Germany explain that actinic keratoses (AKs) are early in situ carcinomas of the skin caused by cumulative sun exposure. Cryosurgery, they explain, is an easy and practicable lesion-directed approach for treatment of isolated lesions. Their aim with this study was to investigate whether an upfront combination of cryosurgery with a topical intervention is superior to cryosurgery alone for treatment of AK. They performed a systematic literature search in MEDLINE, Embase and CENTRAL and hand searched pertinent trial registers for eligible randomized controlled trials until 17 July 2018. Results from individual studies were pooled using a random effects model.

Prevalence of patients with self-reported hidradenitis suppurativa in a cohort of Danish blood donors: a cross-sectional study

Riis and colleagues from Denmark state that hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic inflammatory skin disease characterized by recurrent inflamed nodules. They explain that there is no pathognomonic diagnostic test for HS, and diagnosis is therefore based on three clinical criteria. Their aim with this study was to estimate the cross-sectional prevalence and to characterize patients with HS in the Danish Blood Donor Study cohort. The questionnaire they used was developed previously, and included HS screening questions, the Major Depression Inventory, the Short Form-12 and questions about height, weight and drinking habits; it was answered by 27 765 blood donors. The results are presented in full in this issue of the BJD. The authors conclude that the prevalence of HS in this cohort of blood donors was estimated at 1.8% (95% confidence interval 1.6–2.0). Furthermore, donors with HS reported characteristics similar to those reported for hospital-based patients with HS, such as higher body mass index and smoking rates, and lower socioeconomic status than donors without HS.

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