Patient Perspectives on the Prevalence and Burden of Intertriginous Psoriasis: Results From a National Survey of Adults With Psoriasis in the United States

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INTRODUCTION
• Psoriasis affects about 3% of adults,1 with prevalence of intertriginous involvement estimated at 3.2–35%.
• A survey was conducted by the Harris Poll in the U.S. to understand the perspectives and burden of patients with plaque psoriasis (PsO) who use topical treatments to manage their disease.

METHODS
• The survey was conducted online October 21 through November 24, 2021 among 507 U.S. adults aged 18–84 diagnosed with psoriasis by a healthcare provider.

RESULTS
Patient-Reported Psoriasis Signs and Symptoms in the Intertriginous Area
• Of the 507 respondents, 320 (64%) patients with PsO reported having had symptoms in intertriginous areas during the course of their disease, with symptoms reported in buttocks and armpits being the most commonly affected.
• 40% of patients with psoriasis intertriginous area involvement did not report their PsO involved intertriginous areas until after they saw pictures of PsO in these areas (Figure 3).

Patient-Reported Burden of Intertriginous Psoriasis
• PsO in intertriginous areas has a negative impact on patients’ lives, particularly their emotional well-being and social functioning.
• In the subset of patients with intertriginous psoriasis (n=320):
  – Patients with PsO in intertriginous areas reported that it makes them feel embarrassed (80%), anxious (79%), and depressed (69%).
  – Reported rates of emotional impact were numerically higher in patients with groin involvement (Figure 4).

Patient-Related Symptoms in Intertriginous Areas
• Symptoms that cause the largest negative effects on the quality of life of those with PsO in intertriginous areas are itching (61%), scaling (53%), redness (49%), and skin cracking (46%) (Figure 7).

Patient’s Perspective on Healthcare Provider (HCP) Visits
• Typical patient visits with HCPs about PsO vary with some patients discussing and others remaining fully clothed.
• Although 70% of patients with intertriginous area involvement showed their psoriasis to HCPs, the most common area of involvement was least likely to be shown to an HCP.
• Of patients reporting intertriginous involvement, between the buttocks was the most common area (47%) and groin involvement overall (16%) versus no groin involvement (6%) and in females (15%) (Figure 8).

CONCLUSIONS
• Almost 2 in 3 patients with PsO have reported symptoms in intertriginous areas at some point in the course of their disease.
• PsO in intertriginous areas has a negative impact on patients’ lives, particularly their emotional well-being and their sexual health.
• Typical protocols for HCP visits seem to vary from some patients undressing, whereas others remained fully clothed.
• Intertriginous areas where patients are most likely to exhibit symptoms are also the areas that they are least likely to show to an HCP.
• Most patients with PsO in intertriginous areas who are using different topical treatments for different parts of their body found that the ability to use a single treatment would be beneficial and increase adherence (Figure 9).

REFERENCES

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