Seborrheic keratoses (SKs) are among the most common benign cutaneous lesions, affecting approximately 84 million individuals in the United States. Removal of SKs by dermatologists often requires invasive cryosurgery, shave excision, electrosurgery, curettage, or laser-based treatments; an untreated treatment need exists for the safe, noninvasive, and effective removal of SKs.

Key reasons that individuals with SKs prefer to have them treated or removed include concern with the seriousness of the lesion, physical irritation or pruritus, embarrassment from the visual appearance of the lesion, or the desire to look younger.

Eskata (hydrogen peroxide topical solution, 40% [w/v]; HP40, Aclaris Therapeutics, Inc., Wayne, PA) is a proprietary, stabilized, noninvasive treatment with demonstrated safety and efficacy in the removal of SKs of the face, trunk, and extremities, and low risk of skin pigmentation changes or scarring.

HP40® is the first US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved topical treatment for individuals with raised SKs.

Results

Demographics

A total of 702 survey participants were enrolled and were consistent with the sample recruitment quotas (Table 2).

Table 2. Demographics and Characteristics of Survey Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age category</td>
<td>35–39</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40–49</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50–59</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60–65</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited dermatologist in previous 2 years</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>290 (41)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) household income, US dollars</td>
<td>120,566 (4,252)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residing in a suburban area</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>547 (78)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The racial and ethnic demographics of enrolled survey participants are summarized in Figure 1.

Concerns About SKs

Among the 468 participants (67%) with SKs on multiple body locations, SKs on the face or hairline were of greatest concern (86%). A total of 314 participants (49%) had consulted a professional (eg, HCP, aesthetician) about the SKs on their face or hairline; when asked why, among 208 responders the most common reasons given were concern that the lesion could be cancerous (60%) and dislike of how the SKs look (52%) and to have a suspicious mole or spot checked (47%).

The inclusion of some questions was conditional based on previous participant responses.

Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Eligible participants were diagnosed with SKs by a health care provider (HCP) or self-confirmed the presence of SKs using the definition and example images provided for the survey.

- In addition, participants were required to meet the following criteria:
  - Bothered by appearance of SKs located on the face or hairline (score ≥3 on a 5-point Likert scale: 1 = not at all bothered; 2 = slightly bothered; 3 = somewhat bothered; 4 = moderately bothered; 5 = extremely bothered)
  - At least somewhat interested in an FDA-approved topical treatment to remove SKs on the face or hairline
  - Annual income ≥$75,000 and residing in an urban or suburban area

- Eligible participants were at least 18 years of age at the time of inclusion in the study.

- Participants could choose more than one response.

Survey Questions

- Survey questions were piloted with expert dermatologists and healthcare providers to aid in the assessment of patient concerns with SKs.

- The survey was administered online via Qualtrics and included a Likert scale of 1 to 5, with 5 indicating the highest level of concern or interest.

- Participants could choose more than one response.

Statistics

- Categorical data were presented as frequency and percentage; continuous variables were presented as mean (standard deviation [SD]).

References


Acknowledgments

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Disclosures

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