Cross views on the dermatologist’s position and the patient’s preoccupations as to psoriasis and pregnancy: preliminary results of the study

F. Maccari¹, A.-C. Fougerousse², E. Esteve³, L. Frumholtz⁴, J. Parier¹, C. Hurabielle⁵, C. Cassius⁵, C. Taieb⁶,⁷ and GEM ResoPsso & AJ Derm

¹Dermatologist, La Varenne Saint-Hilaire, France
²Dermatologie Department, Hôpital militaire Begin, Saint Mandé, France
³Dermatology Department CHR Orléans, Paris, France
⁴Dermatology Department, Hôpital Saint-Louis, AP-HP, Paris, France
⁵Dermatology Department and INSERM U976, Institut de recherché sur la peau, Hôpital Saint-Louis, AP-HP, Paris, France
⁶Scientific direction, EMMA, Vincennes, France
⁷Public Health Dpt, Hôpital Necker Enfants Malades, AP-HP, Paris, France
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Background

- Information on psoriasis impact on pregnancy is available
- Very little is known on the preoccupations of women afflicted by the disease or on the dermatologists’ positioning as to psoriasis and pregnancy
- “Objectifs Peau” project demonstrated a 4.7% prevalence of psoriasis in women aged 18-65 years in France

Background

• Many treatments commonly prescribed (methotrexate, acitretin) are strictly contraindicated in this setting

• Biological agents currently indicated for psoriasis are not recommended during pregnancy

Objective

- Collect data on the concerns of dermatologists and the preoccupations of psoriasis-affected women concerning the issues relating to psoriasis in pregnant or lactating women
Materials and methods

- National observational multicenter survey conducted in France from February through June 2018
- Specific questionnaire distributed once to 361 dermatologists of different types
- Specific focus was placed on the “biological agent generation” (diploma ≥2004) versus more senior dermatologists
Results

• Response rate 42.2%

• Mean percentage of women aged 18-45 years: 28.6%, with significant difference between hospital practice versus private or mixed practice (25.3% vs. 31.9%, p=0.01).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total (152)</th>
<th>Men (49)</th>
<th>Women (99)</th>
<th>Diploma &lt;2004 66</th>
<th>Diploma ≥2004 78</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private practice</td>
<td>18.42%</td>
<td>18.37%</td>
<td>18.18%</td>
<td>21.21%</td>
<td>16.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
<td>32.24%</td>
<td>38.78%</td>
<td>27.27%</td>
<td>40.91%</td>
<td>25.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>49.34%</td>
<td>42.86%</td>
<td>54.55%</td>
<td>37.88%</td>
<td>57.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.1885677</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.02867688</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of the dermatologists responding to the survey
Results

- 75% of dermatologists discussed impact of psoriasis on sexual function (20% systematically, 55% on the initiative of patient)
- 12% never talk about this topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main topic</th>
<th>Total (152)</th>
<th>Men (49)</th>
<th>Women (99)</th>
<th>Diploma &lt;2004 (66)</th>
<th>Diploma ≥2004 (78)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wish to become pregnant in the short-term</td>
<td>83.55%</td>
<td>77.55%</td>
<td>85.86%</td>
<td>89.39%</td>
<td>79.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contraception relevance</td>
<td>68.42%</td>
<td>61.22%</td>
<td>70.71%</td>
<td>81.82%</td>
<td>58.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wish to become pregnant in the long-term</td>
<td>41.45%</td>
<td>36.73%</td>
<td>44.44%</td>
<td>46.97%</td>
<td>37.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance of drug therapies during pregnancy</td>
<td>34.87%</td>
<td>40.82%</td>
<td>P31.31%</td>
<td>34.85%</td>
<td>34.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of full-term pregnancies</td>
<td>17.76%</td>
<td>16.33%</td>
<td>18.18%</td>
<td>15.15%</td>
<td>21.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>1.97%</td>
<td>4.08%</td>
<td>1.01%</td>
<td>3.03%</td>
<td>1.28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main topics approached by dermatologists upon psoriasis diagnosis in women of child-bearing potential
Results

- Problems put forth by the patients were
  - compatibility of psoriasis treatment with pregnancy: 64%
  - disease transmission: 54%
  - fetal risks: 49%

- 45% DM & 26% DF declared having been confronted with unplanned pregnancy during psoriasis treatment ($p=0.0022$)

- Reactions depended on the psoriasis treatment taken by their patient in 66%

- 28% were familiar with existing recommendations as to psoriasis treatment in childbearing age women
Discussion

- 26.2% of French psoriasis women are of child-bearing potential, in line with our dataset 28.6%
- Sexual health issues are not easily approached by both dermatologists and patients
- Only one-third are familiar with existing recommendations
Discussion

- Our sample population was not representative for French Dermatologists

- Psoriasis-specific pharmacovigilance registries will address the need about potential effect of biologics on pregnancy outcomes
Conclusion

- More advice and education should be given on how to approach sexual topics with patients.
- All efforts must be deployed by the relevant authorities to increase awareness and distribution of existing recommendations.
- Psoriasis-specific pharmacovigilance registries will provide data on impact of biologics on pregnancy outcomes.