STUDY OF EMPATHY AMONG THE PARTNERS OF PSORIASIS PATIENTS

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RATIONNEL
There has been relatively little research on the effect of psoriasis on the Quality of Life (QoL) of partners. The role of partners of psoriasis patient is very important because they are most often their main source of social support. A better understanding of the impact of psoriasis on the QoL of partners is likely to provide important information for tailoring treatment and support strategies. This study aimed to evaluate the influence of psoriasis on the QoL of partners and to determine predictors of partners’ QoL.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:
This was a prospective multicenter observational study conducted in psoriasis patients by private and hospital-based dermatologists. It was divided into three parts:
Evaluation of patients by the physician, including their sociodemographic profile, disease characteristics (Psoriasis Area Severity Index [PASI]), and nature of their treatments
Evaluation by the patient of the disease impact on their QoL by means of the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) and SF12 QoL questionnaire
Evaluation by the partner of the impact of psoriasis on their QoL by means of the FamilyPso and SF12
The SF 12 is a QoL questionnaire non-specific to dermatology that evaluates overall health status. It can be used to calculate two composite scores identified through factor analysis, namely, a composite physical health score and a composite mental health score. The FamilyPso is a validated questionnaire specific to psoriasis. Its linguistic and cultural validation into French was conducted in accordance with specific guidelines [U. Mrowietz, JEADV 2017]. The feeling of empathy in partners was evaluated using item 4 of the FamilyPso.

RESULTS:
274 patients were selected (163 men and 111 women). Patients with partners of psoriasis (n = 4) and those who were single (n = 42) were excluded. 179 patients (65.3%) (106 men and 73 women) with psoriasis with their partners were included in the study. The median age of those with psoriasis was 49.6 +/- 14.5 years (range 19-83 years). The average duration of the disease was 20.93 ± 16.20 years. The average PASI was 6.36 ± 6.72. 83.2% of patients had the disease for more than 5 years. 14.5% (n = 26) had moderate to severe psoriasis with PASI> 10 and DLQI> 10. Of the patients, 24% (n = 42) had PASI> 10 and 40.8% (n = 42). A DLQI> 10. The median age of the partners was 49.94 years +/- 14.75 years (18-84 years).

A feeling of empathy has been reported in 90.5% of partners of psoriatic patients. The prevalence of feelings of empathy is not significantly different for male and female partners (male partners: 84.9%, female partners: 93.1%, p: 0.09). The age of male partners of psoriatic patients is predictor of feelings of empathy. The age of males psoriatic patients is not a predictor of empathy among partners (Table 1). The age of female psoriatic patient is predictor of feelings of empathy among partners (Table 1). Feelings of empathy are significantly more commonly reported by females partners of male psoriatic patients who have an impact on quality of life assessed by the DLQI score. An DLQI> 10 in male psoriatic patients is predictor of feelings of empathy in their partners (Table 3). The clinical severity assessed by PASI is not a predictor of feelings of empathy in the male and female partners of patients with psoriasis (Table 2 and 3).

DISCUSSION:
This first study conducted in France clearly reported the high prevalence of feelings of empathy in 90.5% of partners of psoriatic patients. The empathy expressed by the partners gives the feeling to those who suffer from psoriasis that their emotions are partly shared and that they benefit from a favorable listening. It is important to take into account empathy of partners of psoriatic patients who participate actively in the management of the disease. The feeling that the pain of psoriasis is better understood both reduces the risk of isolation and withdrawal and reduces feelings of stigma.