



IMPACT OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC ON CHRONIC INFLAMMATORY DERMATOSES: CROSSED LOOKS ON THE DERMATOLOGIST'S POSITION AND THE PATIENT'S CONCERNS

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INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic in France has led to the implementation of containment measures since 17 March 2020, limiting medical activity to urgent care.

Between 15 and 27 April 2020, we evaluated the impact of these measures on the management of chronic inflammatory dermatoses (CID) by interviewing dermatologists and patients (members of patient's associations) using dedicated questionnaires.

PATIENTS

- n= 2141, 71,8% women
- CID: psoriasis 67.1%, hidradenitis suppurativa 17.3%; atopic dermatitis 15.6%
- 36.2% had a scheduled appointment planned during the containment period :
 - maintained for 8.2%
 - cancelled or postponed themselves for 8.2%
 - cancelled or postponed by the dermatologist for 19.8%.
- 70% reported that no alternative solution had been offered to them
- 1 593 received treatment for CID
 - 76.0% continued
 - 16.7% discontinued due to fear of side effects
 - 5.6% discontinued upon the advice of their dermatologist
 - 1.7% discontinued due to problems of treatment availability in pharmacies
- 40.3% considered that the pandemic had a negative impact on the management of CID.
- 69% reported that their CID worsened during confinement.

The lack of an alternative to face-to-face appointments for the majority of patients may be explained by the fact that teleconsultations were not used before by a vast majority of dermatologists and these procedures took up to several weeks to implement.

Dermatologists did not systematically interrupt systemic or biological treatments of patients with CID in accordance with the recommendations of the scientific associations .

The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed dermatologists to accelerate the implementation of teleconsultations for patients with CID, thus reducing the impact of it on their daily life. It has also highlighted the interest of using digital means (webinars, specialized websites).

DERMATOLOGISTS

- n= 308, 64,7% women
- Hospital-based 25,5%, private practice 50,5% mixed practice 24%
- 95% rescheduled CID follow-up appointments
- 95,1% performed follow-up remotely (teleconsultation, telephone, e-mail)
- 1,62% and 1% stopped systemic and biological treatments in all of their patients during the pandemic period.
- Treatment was maintained as usual in the majority of patients, or its continuation was discussed according to the patient's comorbidities
- Initiation of systemic and biotherapies were postponed in 63.6 and 41.2% of cases
- 49.7% considered that the pandemic had a negative impact on the management of CID
- Prior to the pandemic, only 9.1% already carried out teleconsultations. 68.8% do so during the containment period. 52.3% will conduct more teleconsultations after the pandemic.