First-of-Its-Kind Multinational Survey Confirms Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Patients Are Frequently Undertreated or Not Treated at All

Survey provides a unique and comprehensive look at patient quality of life

Nearly half of psoriasis patients surveyed had not seen a doctor in the past year and two-thirds of psoriatic arthritis patients surveyed were not receiving medical treatment for their condition

Results suggest need for greater awareness, improved assessment tools, better communication between physicians and patients, and new treatments

BOUDRY, Switzerland--(BUSINESS WIRE)--A unique and extensive survey provides the first-of-its-kind multinational look into the impact psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis (PsA) have on patients’ lives, revealing several areas which warrant further attention and action, including high rates of undertreatment, a mismatch between patient/physician assessment of the disease, and the desire for new treatment options.

The Multinational Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (MAPP) survey is the largest comprehensive survey of its kind. MAPP is the first probability survey that looked at patients, regardless of whether they were under the care of a healthcare provider or member of a patient advocacy organization, and also included the physician perspective. The survey explored the impact of psoriasis and PsA on disease-related quality of life (QoL), physician-patient relationship, unmet treatment need and patients’ satisfaction with current medical care and therapies. Findings from the survey, which was sponsored by Celgene, were published in the online edition of the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (http://www.jaad.org/article/S0190-9622(14)00977-3/abstract).

“For decades, healthcare providers have been searching for ways to help these psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis patients live more productive lives in spite of their diseases,” said Mark G. Lebwohl, MD, The Mount Sinai Medical Center and the lead investigator of the survey. “The MAPP survey allows us to gain a deeper understanding of the gap between what current assessment tools indicate disease impact should be, versus what the patients are experiencing - and based on the survey - there appears to be a large gap.”

Despite Disease Burden, Patients Forgo Treatment; Patients Call for New Treatment Options

The survey highlighted the need for safe and effective therapies for patients with psoriasis and PsA. The survey also found that a large number of both psoriasis and PsA patients were either being undertreated or were not receiving doctor-prescribed treatments.

A large majority (85 percent) of patients surveyed stated that there was a need for better therapies. Nearly 60 percent of PsA patients surveyed stated that they were not receiving any treatment, and the majority of psoriasis patients with 4 percent or more of their body surface area (BSA) covered by psoriasis were receiving no treatment or only topical therapy.

Many patients had been prescribed a traditional oral or biologic medication at some point but had stopped using it (57 percent of patients given a traditional oral and 45 percent of those given a biologic). The most common reasons for discontinuation were safety and tolerability issues or lack/loss of efficacy.

About half of psoriasis and PsA patients who had received traditional oral medications found these therapies burdensome. Similarly, about half indicated that biologics were also burdensome. In addition, patients also had anxiety/fear of injections and physical preparation for self-injection.

Impact on Disease-Related Quality of Life for Psoriasis and PsA Patients is Significant

Results from the MAPP survey confirmed that psoriasis and PsA have a considerable impact on patient QoL. Almost one-quarter (22 percent) of psoriasis patients with 4 percent or more of their BSA covered by psoriasis, and thirty-nine percent of patients with 10 percent or more of their BSA covered by psoriasis reported a substantial disease-related impact on their life.
Psoriatic arthritis patients with more than four affected joints responded that they had experienced "much difficulty" or were "unable to do" ordinary daily tasks such as bending down to pick up clothing from the floor (26 percent) and dressing themselves (15 percent) to getting in and out of bed or the car (15 percent) and washing and drying their body (12 percent).

**A Gap Between Healthcare Provider and Patient Assessment of Disease Severity Reported**

The authors noted that results suggest there is a disconnect between the way patients and physicians define severity.

For example, itching (pruritus) was the most commonly reported symptom among all patients, and was cited by 43 percent of psoriasis patients and 40 percent of PsA patients as the most bothersome symptom, but itching is rarely captured by assessment tools. Itching (38 percent) and location and size of skin lesions (17 percent) were the most important factors contributing to disease severity in patients with psoriasis.

"Determining the severity of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis is difficult because health care providers often focus on elements that are easily measured, such as the size of the psoriasis lesions or the number of joints affected. However, severity should also include impact on quality of life," said Randy Beranek, president and CEO of the National Psoriasis Foundation. "For instance, someone with psoriasis on a small surface area such as their hands and feet will find it can have a significant effect on their daily activities. Even a small number of affected joints can cause significant pain and impact mobility with psoriatic arthritis."

**About the MAPP Survey**

The MAPP survey evaluated how psoriasis and PsA affects patients' lives. Interviews were conducted with 3,426 patients as part of a randomly selected telephone survey of 139,948 households in the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. In addition, 781 physicians in North America and Europe were also interviewed. The survey was conducted in 2012 and was overseen by an academic steering committee of thought leaders in dermatology and rheumatology.

**About Psoriasis**

Psoriasis is an immune-mediated, non-contagious chronic inflammatory skin disorder of unknown cause. The disorder is a chronic recurring condition which varies in severity from minor localized patches to complete body coverage. Plaque psoriasis is the most common type of psoriasis. About 80 percent of people who develop psoriasis have plaque psoriasis, which appears as patches of raised, reddish skin covered by silvery-white scales. These patches, or plaques, frequently form on the elbows, knees, lower back, and scalp. Psoriasis occurs nearly equally in males and females. Psoriasis is believed to be most common in Caucasians and slightly less common in other ethnic groups. Worldwide, psoriasis is most common in Scandinavia and other parts of northern Europe. An estimated 125 million people worldwide have psoriasis.

**About Psoriatic Arthritis**

Psoriatic arthritis is a painful, chronic inflammatory disease characterized by pain, stiffness, swelling and tenderness of the joints, inflammation of specific ligaments and tendons and decrease in physical functioning. It is estimated that nearly 38 million people worldwide have psoriatic arthritis. Psoriatic arthritis can impact day-to-day activities and has been reported to increase work disability. Common signs and symptoms of psoriatic arthritis include pain, stiffness and swelling in joints. To learn more about psoriatic arthritis, go to [www.discoverpsa.com](http://www.discoverpsa.com).

**About Celgene**

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