Validity of the EuroQol-5D in patients with pemphigus vulgaris and pemphigus foliaceus

These authors from Hungary highlight that no studies to date have employed the EuroQol EQ-5D questionnaire to assess health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in patients with pemphigus. Their aim with this study was to evaluate the HRQoL of patients with pemphigus by the EQ-5D and to analyse the convergent and known-groups validity of the EQ-5D in this patient population. To do this they carried out a multicentre cross-sectional study between 2014 and 2017. Their outcome measures included the five-level EQ-5D, Dermatology Life Quality Index, Autoimmune Bullous Skin Disorder Intensity Score and an average pain-intensity visual analogue scale for the past 3 months. In total 109 consecutive patients with pemphigus were recruited into the study (mean age 57 years, 64% women); the results are presented in full in this issue of the journal. The authors summarize that this was the first study to employ the EQ-5D questionnaire in pemphigus. They found the EQ-5D to be a valid measure of HRQoL in patients with pemphigus that can be useful both in clinical practice and in economic evaluations to assess the health gains associated with new effective treatments.

https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.16883

Cryosurgery combined with topical interventions for actinic keratosis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Heppt and colleagues from Munich, Germany explain that actinic keratoses (AKs) are early in situ carcinomas of the skin caused by cumulative sun exposure. Cryosurgery, they explain, is an easy and practicable lesion-directed approach for treatment of isolated lesions. Their aim with this study was to investigate whether an upfront combination of cryosurgery with a topical intervention is superior to cryosurgery alone for treatment of AK. They performed a systematic literature search in MEDLINE, Embase and CENTRAL and hand searched pertinent trial registers for eligible randomized controlled trials until 17 July 2018. Results from individual studies were pooled using a random effects model. The risk of bias was estimated with the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool and the quality of evidence of the outcomes with the GRADE approach. Out of 1758 records initially identified, nine studies with a total sample size of 1644 patients were included. The results are presented in full in this issue of the BJD. The authors conclude that their results suggest the superiority of a combination regimen for AK clearance, with equal tolerability. This study highlights the importance of a field-directed approach in patients with multiple AKs or field cancerization.

https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.17435

Prevalence of patients with self-reported hidradenitis suppurativa in a cohort of Danish blood donors: a cross-sectional study

Riis and colleagues from Denmark state that hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic inflammatory skin disease characterized by recurrent inflamed nodules. They explain that there is no pathognomonic diagnostic test for HS, and diagnosis is therefore based on three clinical criteria. Their aim with this study was to estimate the cross-sectional prevalence and to characterize patients with HS in the Danish Blood Donor Study cohort. The questionnaire they used was developed previously, and included HS screening questions, the Major Depression Inventory, the Short Form-12 and questions about height, weight and drinking habits; it was answered by 27 765 blood donors. The results are presented in full in this issue of the BJD. The authors conclude that the prevalence of HS in this cohort of blood donors was estimated at 1.8% (95% confidence interval 1.6–2.0). Furthermore, donors with HS reported characteristics similar to those reported for hospital-based patients with HS, such as higher body mass index and smoking rates, and lower socioeconomic status than donors without HS.

https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.16998