Ensuring the content validity of a quality-of-life measure for patients with chronic itch

L Ebrahimi1, DG Schlundt3, K Bonnet1 and M Chen1 1 Dermatology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, United States and 2 Psychology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, United States

Clinicians often ask, "How are you doing?" but patients—especially those with chronic conditions that affect many aspects of their lives—may feel unable to respond comprehensively. Accurate and complete data about a disease's impacts is critical to personalize health care, and quantitative disease-specific assessments that are reliable and valid can generate useful data for treatment and research. However, the content validity of measurement scales is too often ignored, with more emphasis placed on construct and predictive validity. Our goal was to enhance the content validity of the SkinQ-16 for use as an outcome measure for patients with chronic itch. The 16 items were compared to the Skindex-16 item set, and 17 items—called the Itch Module—were retained for further testing. This qualitative analysis of responses from patients with chronic itch showed that the SkinQ-16 plus the Itch Module had enhanced content validity compared to the parent SkinQ-16 alone.

The impact of inflammatory dermatoses on cancer patients undergoing inpatient chemotherapy administration

J Han1,2, S O’Neal3, A Gravely4 and N Goldfarb5,6 1 Dermatology, Minneapolis VA Health Care System, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States and 2 Dermatology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

The impact of inflammatory dermatoses negatively impact hospital outcomes for cancer patients receiving inpatient chemotherapy. Further research is needed to evaluate skin morphologies and diseases most responsible for these effects.

Physicians’ attitudes towards active surveillance for basal cell carcinoma

J Har1,2, S O’Neal3, A Gravely4 and N Goldfarb5,6 1 Dermatology, Minneapolis VA Health Care System, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States and 2 Dermatology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

Basal cell carcinomas (BCCs) are typically slow growing, and 30-50% remain stable or shrink in size over time. Most BCCs are treated regardless of life-expectancy and over 100,000 BCCs per year are treated in patients’ final year of life. Active surveillance has been proposed as a method for managing patients with limited life-expectancy. Limited data is available on physician comfort and practice in regard to active surveillance of BCCs. The objectives of this study were to determine physicians’ comfort level with active surveillance of BCC, and understand which factors influence their decisions. We conducted a cross-sectional survey study of physician members of the Association of Professors of Dermatology in August/September 2019 to evaluate physicians’ attitudes regarding active surveillance of basal cell carcinomas (BCCs). The primary outcomes were physician comfort with active surveillance of BCC, factors influencing their decision to monitor BCC, and feared complications. Seventy out of 528 members (13%) responded to the survey. Eighty-three percent of respondents felt comfortable monitoring nodular and superficial basal cell carcinomas. Factors such as medical comorbidities (90%), functional status (84%), age (82%), anatomic location (77%), size (71%), and histologic subtype (66%) determined the level of comfort with monitoring BCC. Over 70% of physicians would feel comfortable monitoring BCC in patients with level 4 functional ECOG status and age older than 85. The top feared complications were larger surgical site defects (84%), bleeding (83%), ulceration (80%), local destruction to adjacent vital organs (64%), and pain (51%). Metastasis (6%) and death (6%) were uncommon concerns. There were no significant differences in responses between general dermatologists and Mohs micrographic surgeons. The main outcomes were comfort with active surveillance of BCC, factors influencing their decision to monitor BCC, and feared complications.

Most influential authors in dermatology: Standardized citation indicators from updated databases

TE Sweeney1, CL Presley1, MB Szeto1, A Afriñ1, SM Lada1, MLaughter3, MB Maymone1 and R Dellavalle1 1 Dermatology, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado, United States, 2 Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, East Lansing, Michigan, United States and 3 Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Parker, Colorado, United States

Peer-reviewed literature informs evidence-based dermatology clinical decision making. Several authors and colleagues created a comprehensive database utilizing standardized citation indicator data from Scopus. Authors were systematically assessed for career-long citation impact and impact during 2019. A composite score integrating six citation metrics, notably considering authorship position, was calculated and reported with common metrics, such as h-index and citations. The top 25 “Dermatology & Venereal Diseases” authors in each dataset were identified according to three metrics, excluding self-citations: 1) total number of citations from 1996-2019 (‘career-long’) or 2019 alone; 2) h-index as of 2019; and 3) composite score. Last-known institutional affiliation and country were provided by the database; author gender was compiled via Google. Career-long metrics showed a similar trend (increasing diversity in gender, institution, and country). Given that citations accumulate over time, inclusion of citations outside 1996-2019 is warranted, along with future research inclusion beyond Scopus (e.g., Google Scholar). Subsequent database updates will reveal future trends, with women and non-American authors potentially gaining prominence.