

# e-HEALTH LITERACY IN ADULTS WITH HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA (HS): A WORLDWIDE STUDY IN 20 COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE ASSOCIATED FACTORS

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# Disclosure Information :

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- Social media has become a modality for patient education, misinformation, and marketing in dermatology
- The concept of eHealth literacy is introduced and defined as the ability to seek, find, understand, and appraise health information from electronic sources and apply the knowledge gained to addressing or solving a health problem <sup>(1)</sup>.
- HL influences both well-being and health<sup>(2)</sup>
- Lower HL has been linked with poorer health outcomes (meaning less successful treatment) <sup>(3)</sup>
- Data on HL in people with Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is lacking.
- The main objective of this study was to assess HL in patients with hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) and to explore factors associated with eHealth literacy.

1) Larsen MH., Br J Dermatol. 2019 Jun;180(6):1506-1516.

2) Nutbeam D. Annu Rev Public Health. 2021 Apr 1;42:159-173

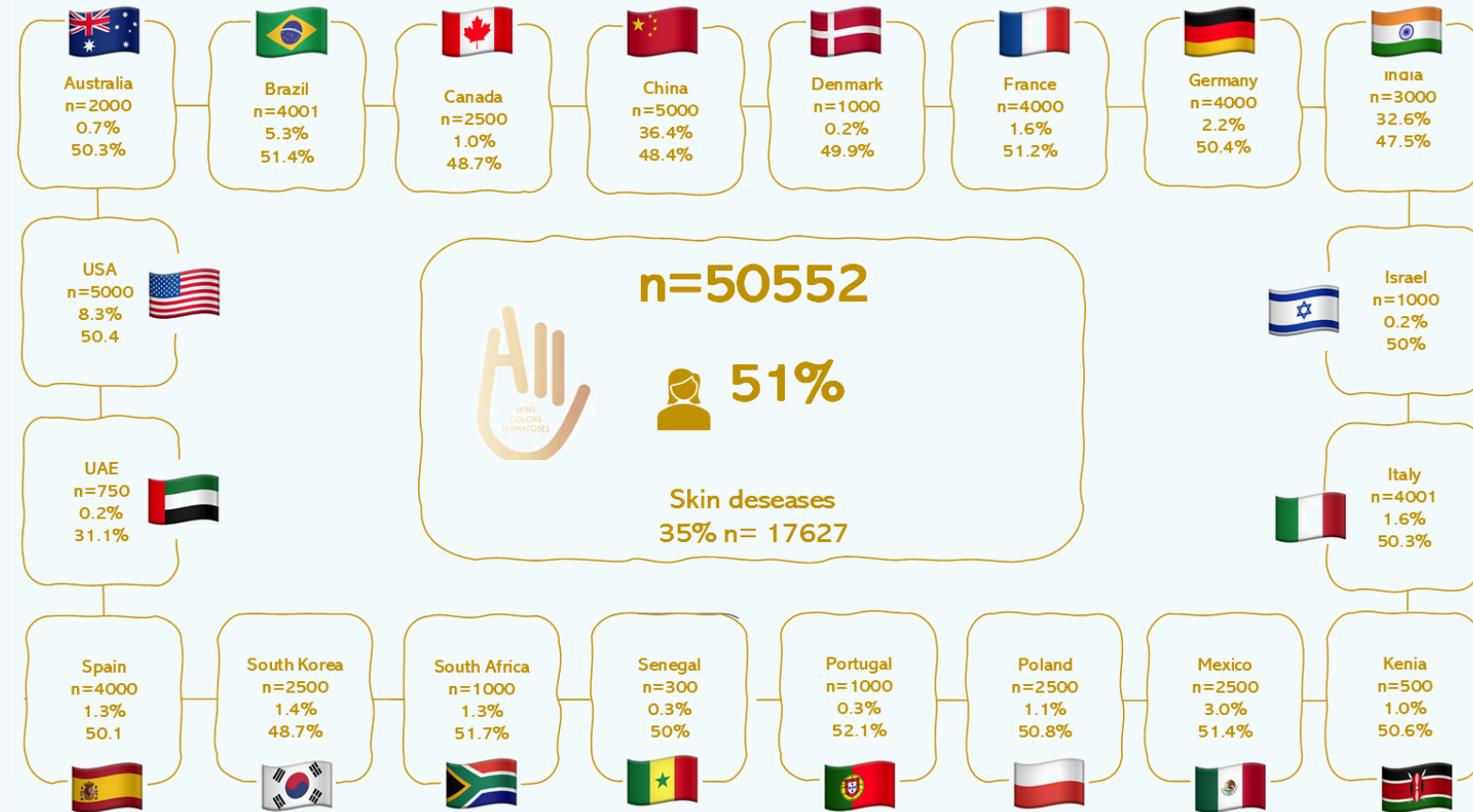
3) Ishikawa H., Health Expect. 2008 Jun;11(2):113-22

# Material and methods

## 20 COUNTRIES FOR OVER 50% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION!

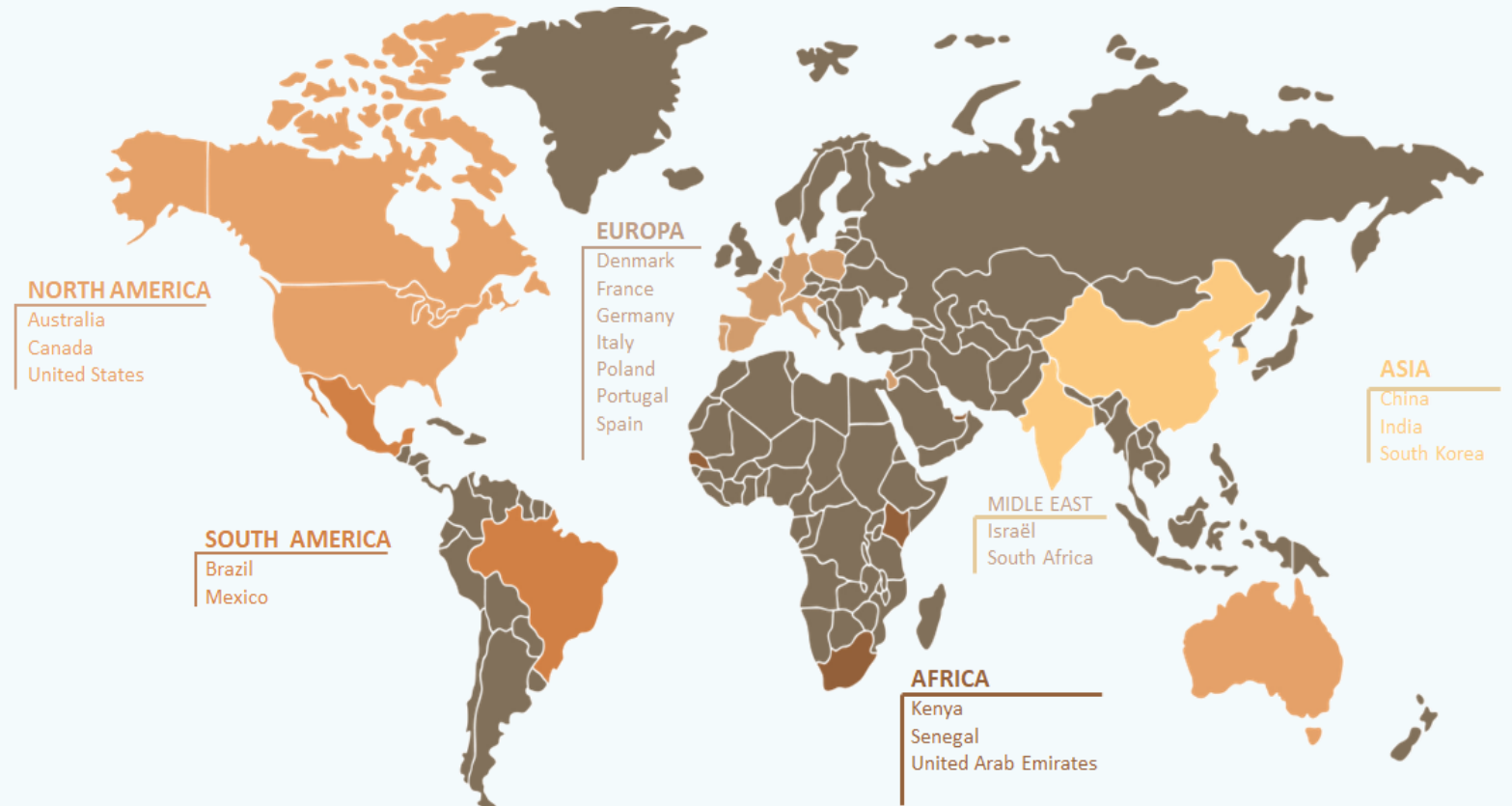
Online survey of the general population over 16 years of age in 20 countries worldwide.

- Demographic and socio-demographic profiles
- Optional report ethnic and racial origin
- Self-reported Fitzpatrick skin phototypes
- Presence of a dermatological condition occurring in the past year



# Material and methods

- Hidradenitis suppurativa reported by the patients on the basis of a diagnosis by a doctor
- Patients who stated using the internet to find reliable information about their skin problems were used to assess eHealth literacy (eHL)
- Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics
- Type of treatment
- Fear of adverse effects
- Feelings of discouragement to continue treatment
- Satisfaction with the treating physician.



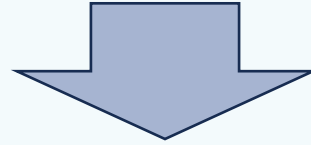
## 586 HS respondents :

**302 (51.5%) males (mean age 36+/-11.6). min 16-82 years).**

- **371 patients (63.3%) had used the Internet to obtain information about their disease.**
  - => **187 (50.4%) specialist websites**
  - => **156 (42.0%) Pharmaceutical-supported websites**
  - => **172 (46.4%) discussion forums**
  - => **158 (42.6%) blogs or influencers.**



**n=27175**  
**Males 14674 ( 54%) / Females 12591 ( 46%) Mean age 44.7 +/-15.7 yrs**



**HS n=586**  
**302 (51.5%) males (mean age 36+/-11.6). min 16-82 years**

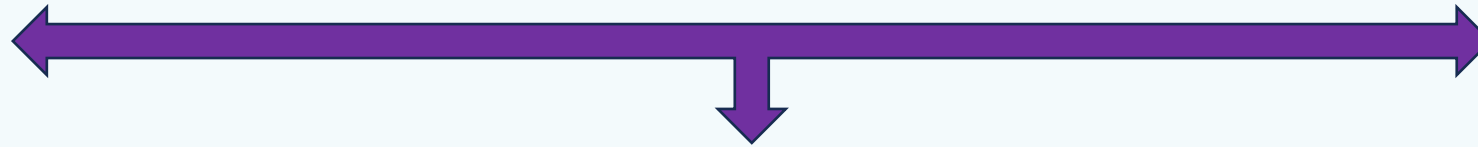
When you're looking for reliable information about your skin problems, who do you turn to?

Specialised  
websites  
187 (50.4%)

Pharmaceutical-  
websites  
156 (42.0%)

Discussion  
forums  
172 (46.4%)

Blogs or  
influencers.  
158 (42.6%)



**371 (63.3%) HS had used the Internet to obtain information about their disease.**



- **Socio-demographical characteristics of HS with eHI:**

- => Female gender (52% vs. 42.3%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

- => Age no Mean age (35.5 vs 36.9 years, NS)..

- => Professional activity (59.6% vs. 51.2%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

- **Burden of HS with eHI**

- => Embarrassment in personal life (90% vs. 76.7%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

- => Embarrassment in professional life (82.2% vs. 72.1%,  $p \leq 0.05$ ).

- **Feeling of stigmatisation of HS with eHI**

- => Feeling left out or rejected by others (60.1%vs 53%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

- => Feeling looked at with disgust (67%vs 48.4%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

- => Feeling that you avoid touching them (67.5% vs 47%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

- => Feeling that you avoid approaching them (59%vs 44.2%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )





## Type of medical care of patients with eHI

- **Consultation of HS**

=> Satisfaction with explanations given by physicians was lower in eHi (26.3% vs. 31.9%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

=> Duration of the consultation (22.9% vs. 38.5%, NS) and satisfaction with the doctor's care (25.6% vs. 34.1%, NS) were not significantly lower in eHi.

- **Treatment of HS**

=> Receiving injectable treatments (42.3% vs 24.2%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

=> Having worries about side effects (72.6% vs 58.3%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )

=> Feeling discouraged about continuing treatment (74.1% vs 58.3%,  $p \leq 0.05$ )



- First study of eHealth literacy in patients with HS
- The access of adults with HS to online resources may have a major impact on their health behaviours and outcomes.
- Healthcare providers should assess eHealth literacy of HS patients and direct them to appropriate and reliable online resources.
- The development of interventions to improve eHealth literacy and/or usability of web-based information for adults with HS is essential.
- More research is needed to implement/construct programmes/interventions promoting concerning knowledge on eHealth literacy literacy

