

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES OF BURDEN AND FEELINGS OF STIGMATISATION AMONG PATIENTS LIVING WITH HIDROADENITIS SUPPURATIVA

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- Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic, debilitating skin disease manifesting as recurrent, invalidating abscesses.
- HS is commonly associated with disability, depression and anxiety, stigmatization and loss of self-esteem.
- There is little information about the racial and ethnic difference of experience of stigmatization in patients with HS .
- The objective of this study was to investigate and compare prevalence of stigmatization associated with HS among different racial and ethnic population.

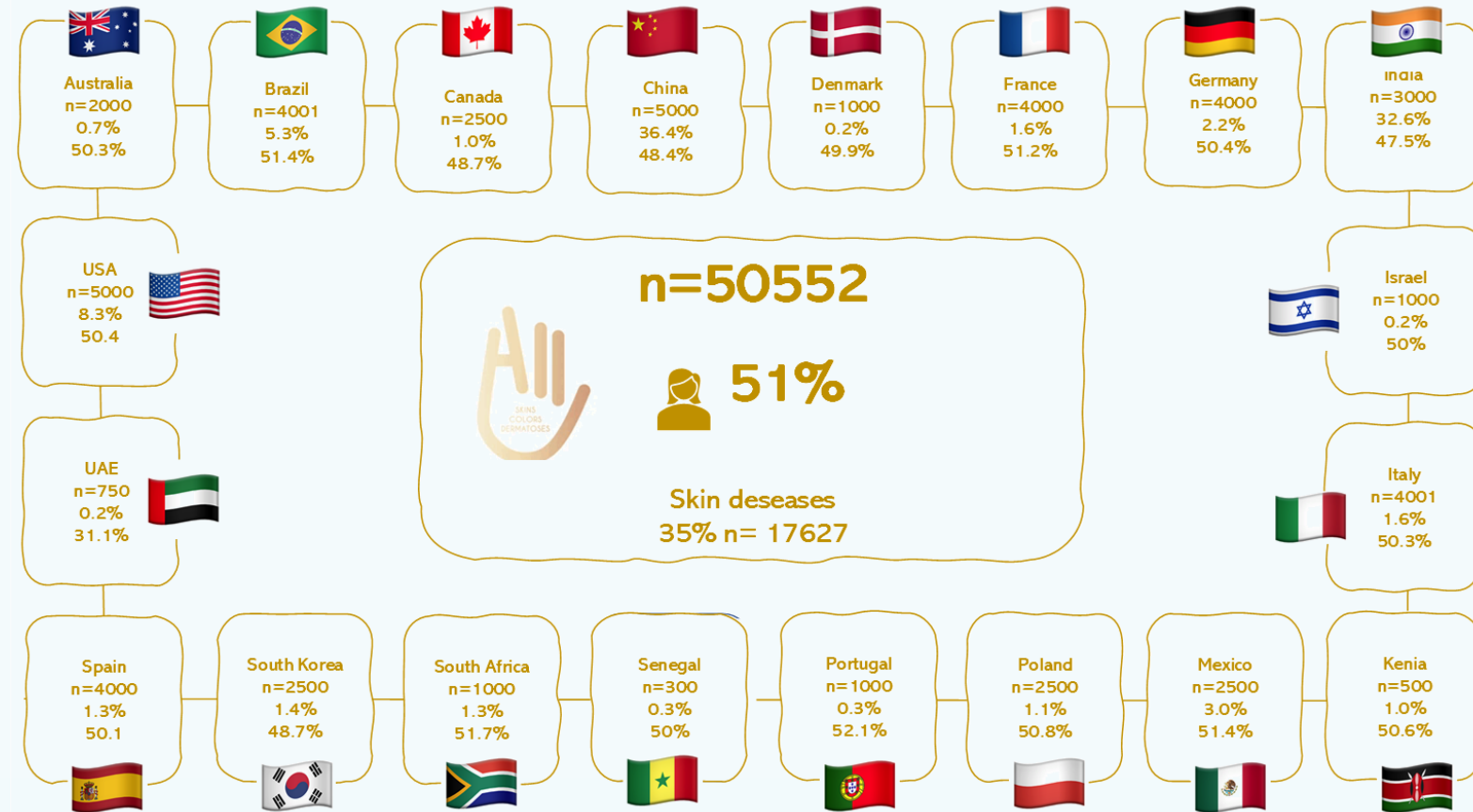


Material and methods

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

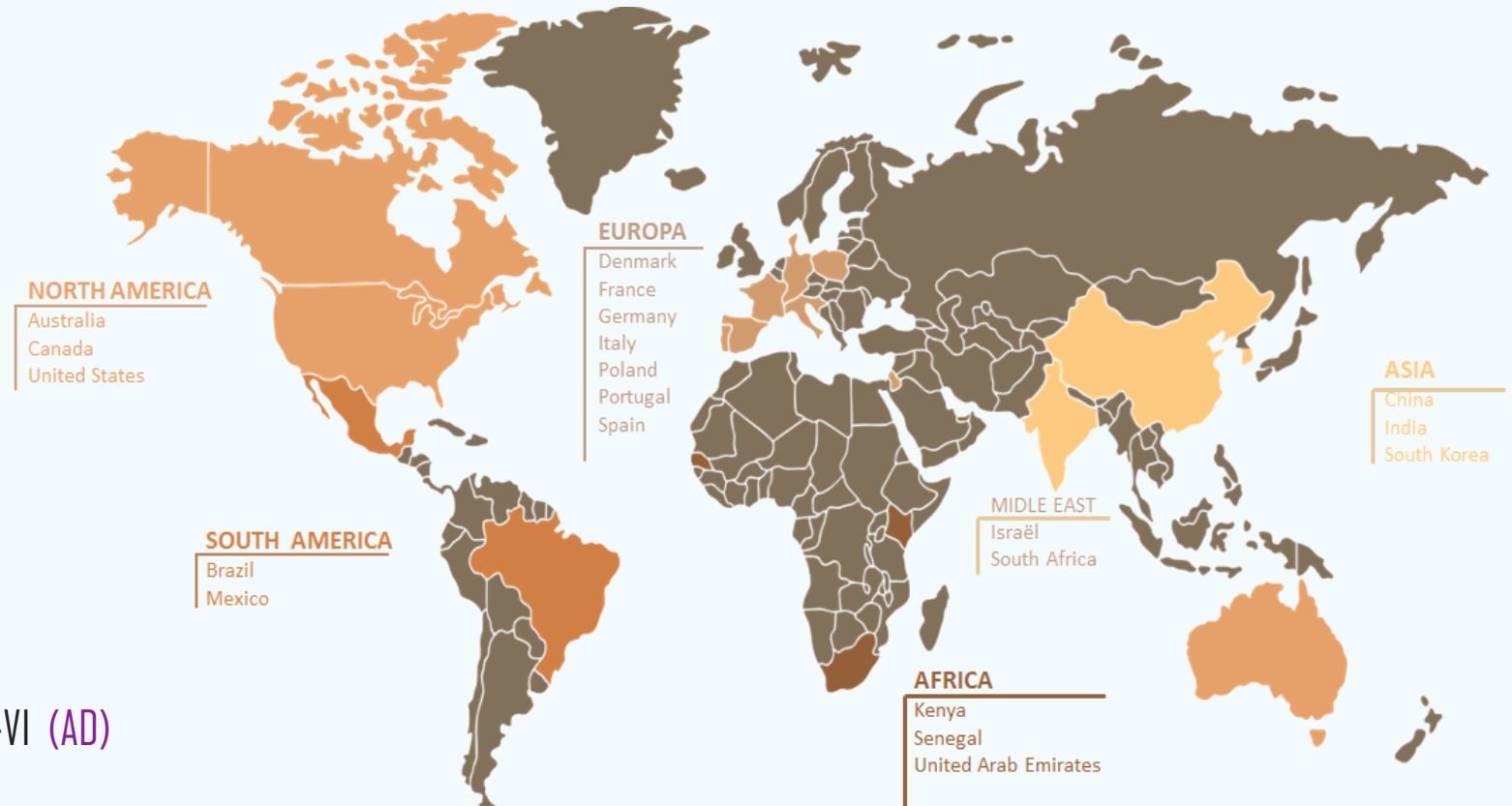
Online survey of the general population over 16 years of age in 20 countries worldwide.

- 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 reported feelings of stigmatization (FS) if because of their HS.
 - => they felt that they were ostracized or rejected by others
 - => and/or that they felt that they were looked at with disgust
 - => and/or that people avoided touching them
 - => and/or that people avoided approaching them



- **Four groups :**

African descent with Fitzpatrick skin phototype (FSP) V-VI (AD)

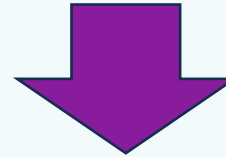
Caucasian descent with Fitzpatrick skin types 1-3 (C)

East Asian cohort from China and South Korea (EA)

Indian cohort (I) from India

n=13130

Males 5587 (42.6%) / Females 7543(57.4%) Mean age 39.9+/-14.8 yrs



436 HS Males 200 (45.8%) /Females 236 (54.2%)

- Mean age 36.6+/-11.6 yr(18-76 years)

46 (10.6%) African descendants, 82 (41.7%) Caucasian descendants, 78 (17.9%) East Asian and (29.8%) 130 Indian respondents.

337 HS reported FS (77.3%)

=> 259 (59.4%) felt ostracized or rejected by others

=> 254 (58.3%) felt looked at with disgust

=>250 (57.3%) reported that people avoided touching them

=> 244 (56.%) reported that people avoided approaching them because of their HS.

99 HS were considered to have no FS.

- Predictive factors of FS

Young age 35.2 +/-10.4 vs 41.6+/-14.0 p:3.9E-5.

Gender (Men 47.5% vs 40.4%, NS p 0.21)

Obesity (BMI>or =30) (17.6% vs 16.5%, NS p0.76)

	African descent n=46	East Asian respondents n=78	Caucasian descent n=182	Indian respondents n=130	Total n=436
HS with FS	40(87%)	61(78.2%)	119(65.4%)	117(90%)	337(77.3%)
HS who felt ostracized or rejected by others	25(54.3%)	49(62.8%)	93(51.1%)	92(70.8%)	259(59.4%)
HS who felt looked at with disgust,	32(69.6%)	47(60.3%)	85(46.7%)	90(69.2%)	254(58.3%)
HS who reported that people avoided touching them	19(41.3%)	43(55.1%)	89(48.9%)	99(76.2%)	250(57.3%)
HS who reported that people avoided approaching them	30(65.2%)	42(53.8%)	80(44%)	92(70.8%)	244(56.0%)

Indians were more likely to experience feelings of stigma than

- Caucasians (90 %vs 65.4% $p \leq 0.05$)
- East Asians (90%) vs 78.2% $p \leq 0.05$)

Africans were more likely to experience feelings of stigma than

- Caucasians (87 %vs 65.4% $p \leq 0.05$)



		Africans n=46	East Asians n=78	Caucasians n=182	Indians n=130
Impact on self-perception	Do you consider yourself to be a nuisance in your personal life?	39(84,8%)	56(71,8%)	150(82,4%)	126(96,9%)
	Do you tend to control your appearance every time you look in the mirror?	28(60,9%)	51(65,4%)	114(62,6%)	94(72,3%)
	Has your skin condition ever prevented you from taking a selfie?	32(69,6%)	63(80,8%)	122(67,0%)	116(89,2%)
Professional impact	Do you consider your skin condition to be an embarrassment in your professional life?	41(89,1%)	46(59,0%)	138(75,8%)	120(92,3%)
	Have you had to take time off work or study?	27 (58,7%)	46(59,0%)	88(48,4%)	99(76,2%)
	Have you had the feeling that you were absent from your work while you were doing it?	27(58,7%)	54(69,2%)	96(52,7%)	99(76,2%)
	Have you had the feeling that you were less productive in your activity (work/study)?	29(63,0%)	41(52,6%)	105(57,7%)	89(68,5%)
Impact on sexuality	Have you experienced any difficulties in your relationship?	29(63,0%)	51(65,4%)	100(54,9%)	98(75,4%)
	Do you feel that your sex life has been affected?	26(56,5%)	48(61,5%)	110(60,4%)	97(74,6%)
Impact on family	Have you not had enough time to look after your family?	23(50,0%)	49(62,8%)	90(49,5%)	88(67,7%)
	Have you felt absent from your family life?	28(60,9%)	47(60,3%)	96(52,7%)	86(66,2%)

Significant consequences on self-perception, sexuality, family and work life +++ in Indians



- First study to compare feelings of stigma between different ethnic and racial in patients living with HS.
- Indians and Africans respondents were more likely to experience feelings of stigma than Caucasian descendants.
- This may be explained by the greater importance of appearance, the social pressure and frequent confusion of HS with leprosy in Indian subcontinent.
- Educational campaigns for the public and medical trainees may reduce stigma toward persons with HS .

