

Impact of Hidradenitis Suppurativa: A Worldwide Study on the Socio-Psychological Burden



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RATIONAL & OBJECTIVES

Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic skin disorder characterized by enduringly painful nodules and recurrent abscesses. It deeply impacts patients' wellbeing, causing discomfort, pain, and potentially significant psychological and social difficulties. Assessing its influence across diverse populations could facilitate the development of more effective treatment approaches and customized support interventions.

METHODOLOGY

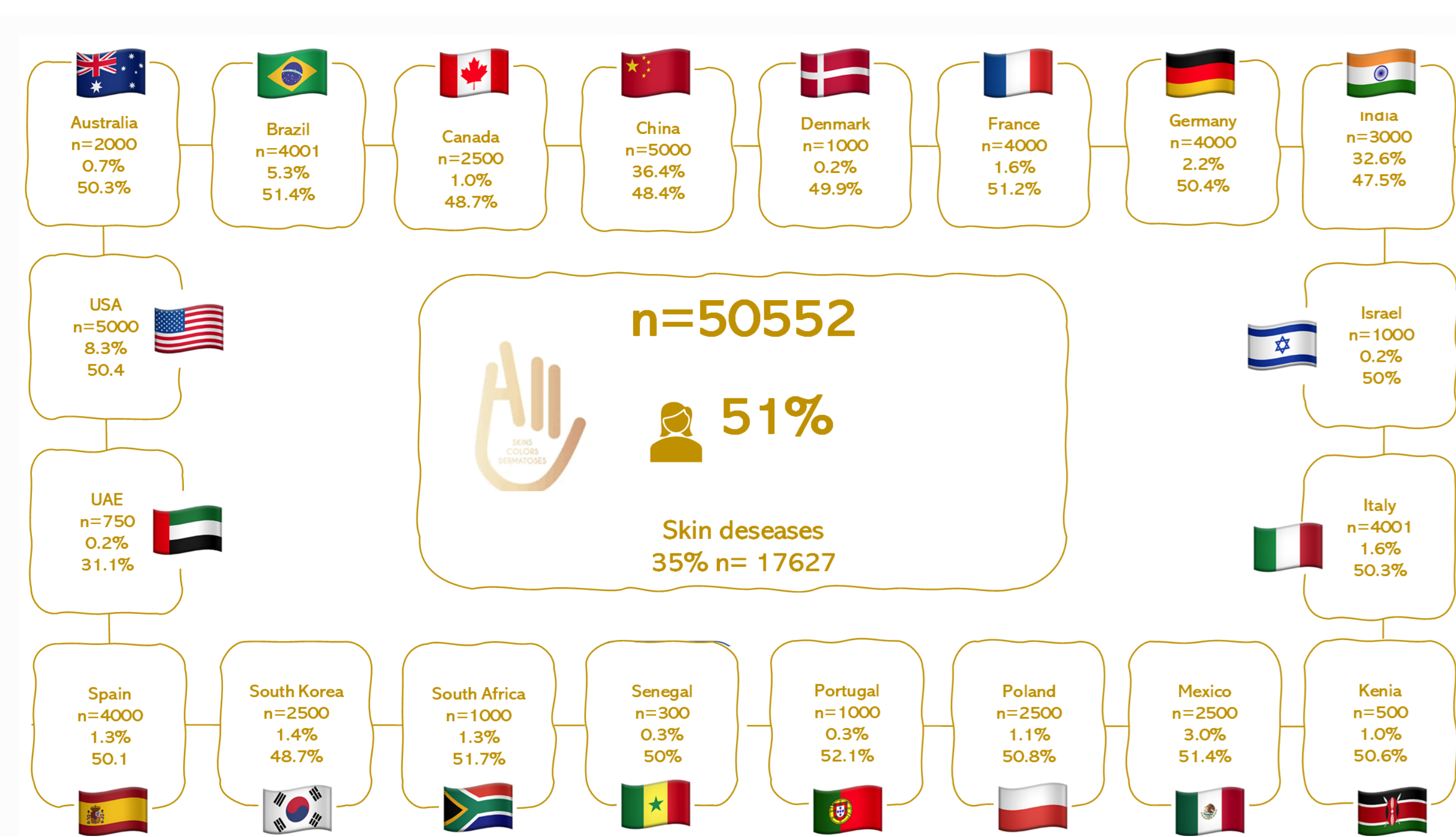
The ALL PROJECT is a large-scale study of individuals representative of the adult population in 20 countries on five continents: Europe [France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Denmark; n=17500], Latin America[LA] [Brazil, Mexico; n=6501], Asia [China, India, South Korea; n=10500], North America [NA] [Canada, USA; n= 7500]; Middle East [ME] [Israel, United Arab Emirates; n=2750], Australia [Australia; n=2000] and Africa [Kenya, South Africa, Senegal; n=1800].

In each of the 20 countries surveyed, representative and extrapolable samples of the general population aged 16 and over were interviewed.

This methodology ensures that the results of the study can be generalized to the entire population of each country included in the project, thus providing a global and diversified perspective of the subjects studied.

Patients reporting only Hidradenitis suppurativa as confirmed by a healthcare professional, were identified to avoid attributing effects to another skin condition.

The results were compared using chi-squared or Fisher's exact test. The alpha risk was set at 5% and two tailed tests were used. Statistical analysis was performed using EasyMedStat (version 3.34; www.easymedstat.com).

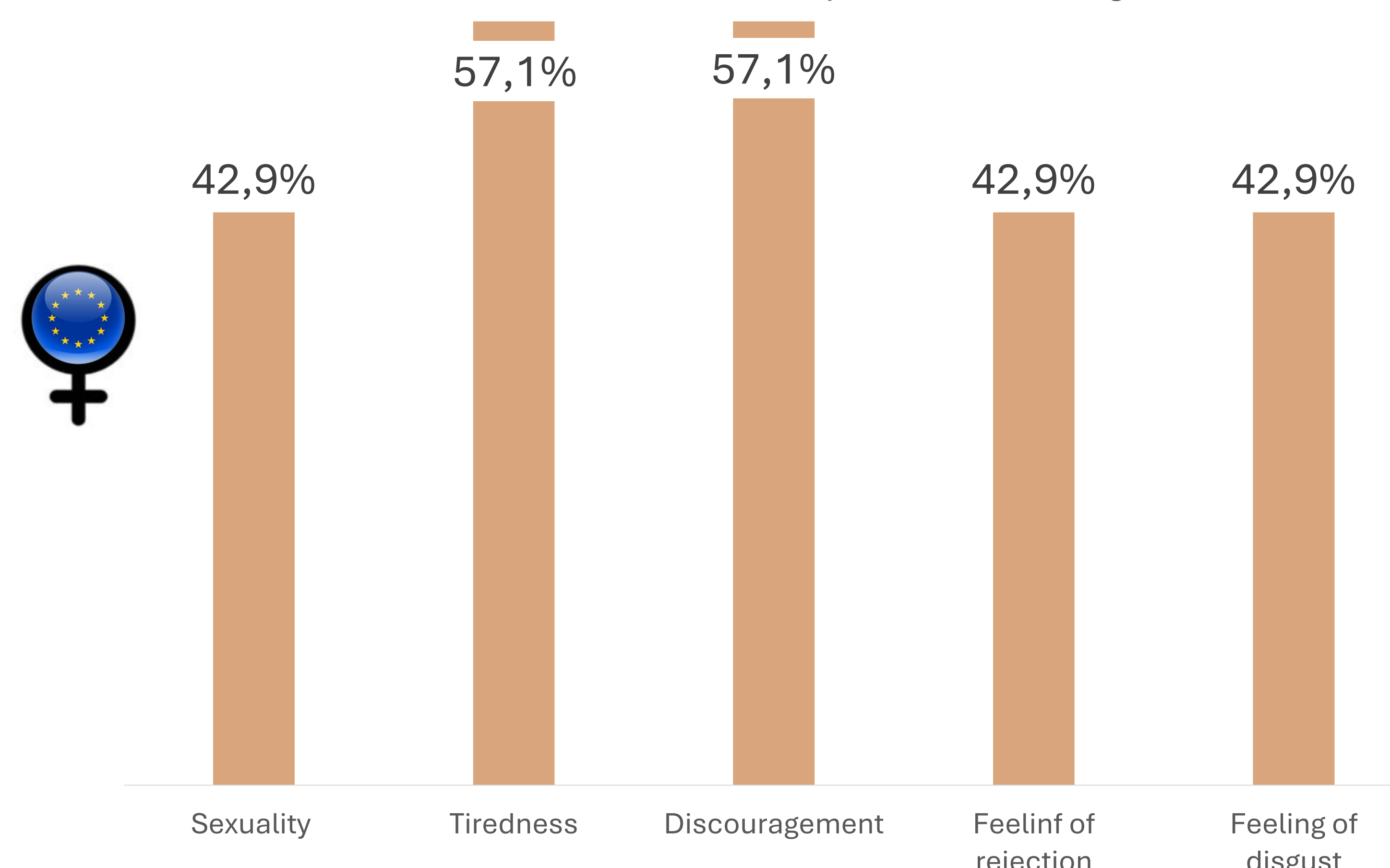
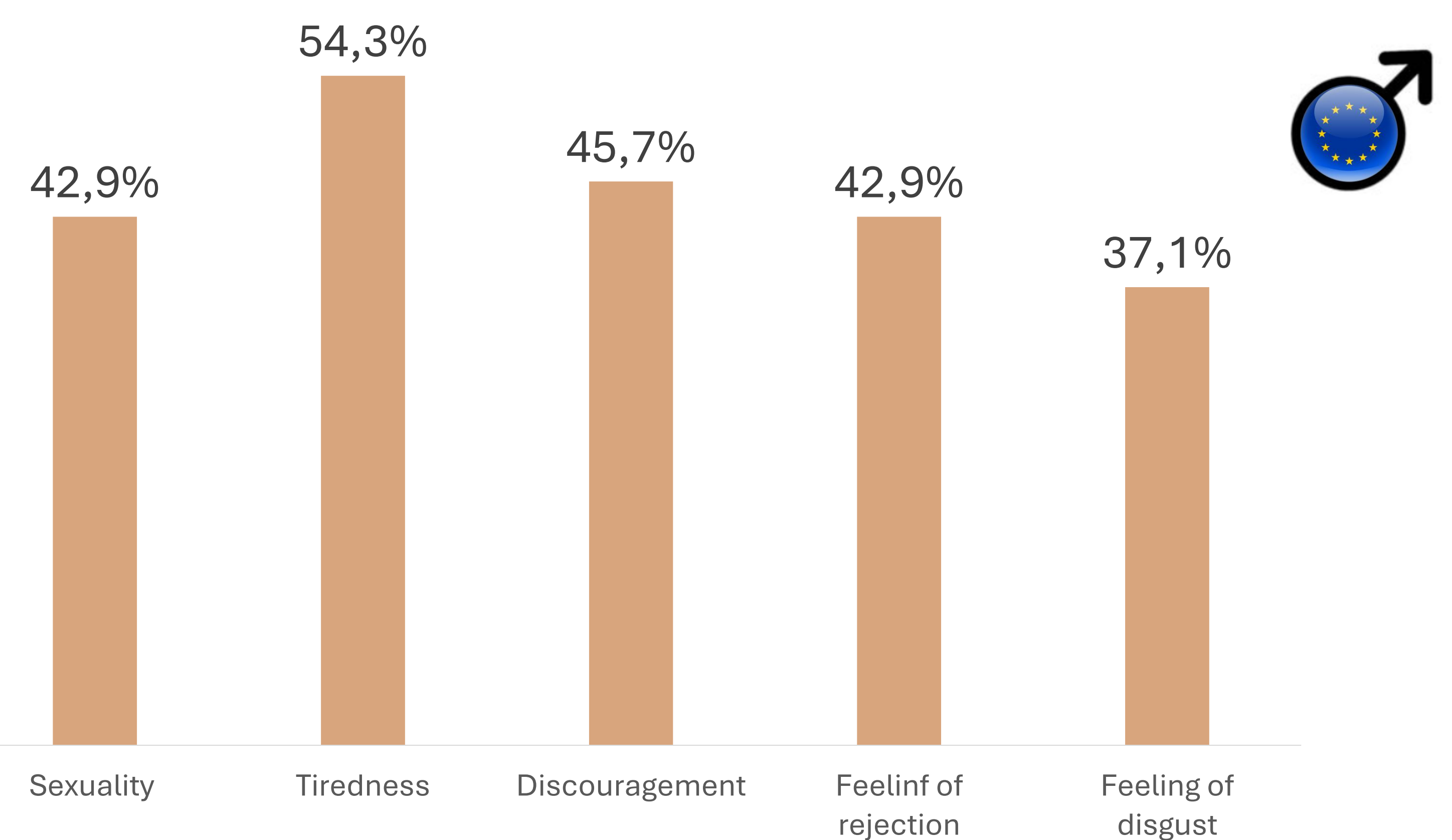
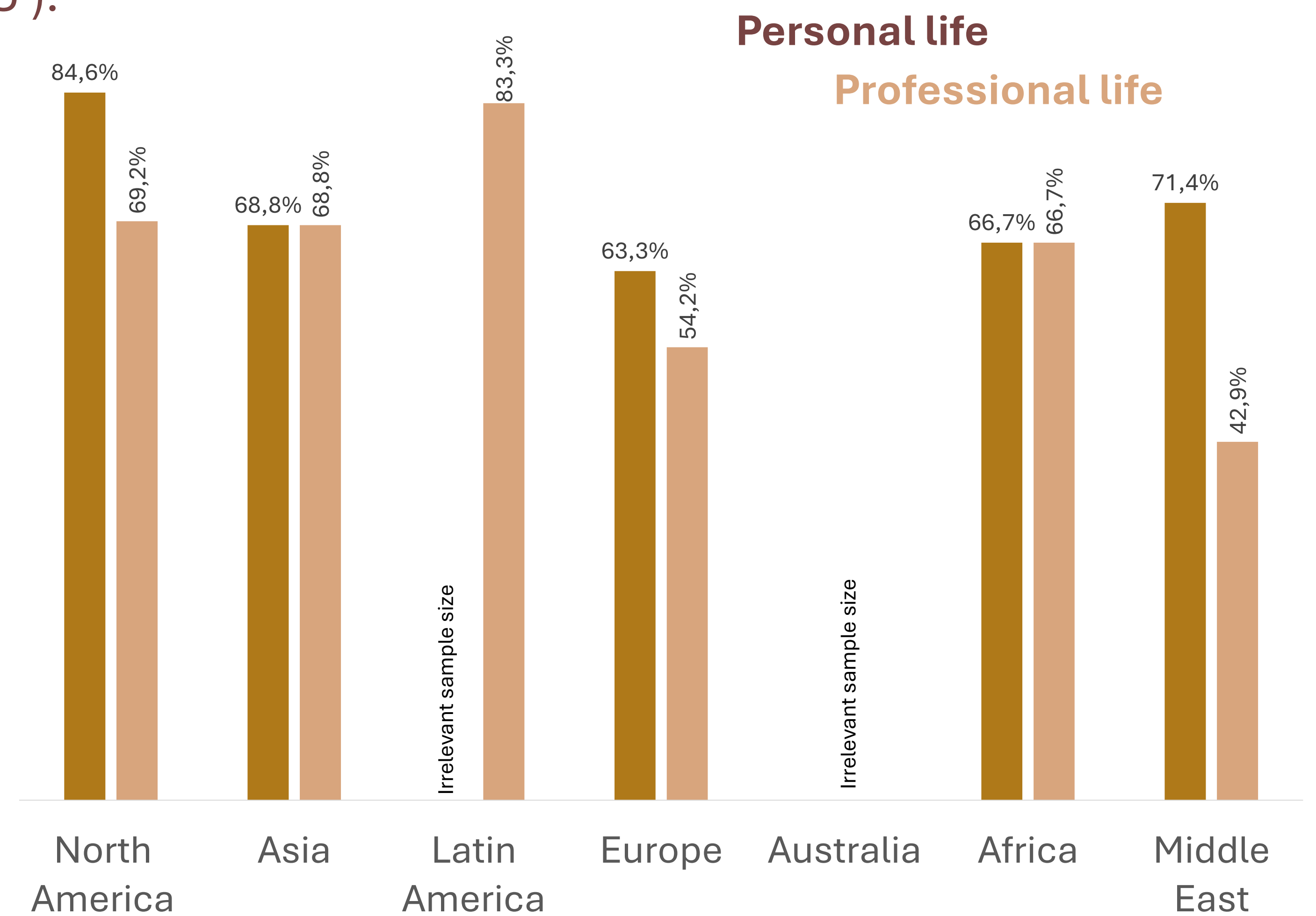


RESULTS

A total of 95 patients were identified with hidradenitis suppurativa as their sole dermatological condition. One in two [51.6%] hidradenitis suppurativa patients reported **feeling tired** because of their dermatitis (55.1% in EU). This figure may be explained by the fact that 58.9% of hidradenitis suppurativa patients reported having difficulty sleeping (59.2% in EU). Furthermore, 51.6% of patients stated that they had had to be **more vigilant with their spending**, compared with 46.9% in EU .

Social rejection and perception of disgust: A total of 41.1% of patients reported feeling ostracized or rejected by others because of their hidradenitis suppurativa (42.9% in EU). Furthermore, 35.8% of patients admitted to having felt looked at with disgust (38.8% in EU). Additionally, 41.1% of patients consistently stated that they had the impression that certain people avoided them (44.9% in EU). This sentiment of social exclusion is reflected in the fact that 36.8% have chosen to

abstain from attending social events, whether familial or occupational, due to their hidradenitis suppurativa (32.7% in EU). In terms of interpersonal challenges, one-half of patients (50.5%) have reported difficulties in their romantic relationships (44.9% in EU). Concurrently, 45.3% of patients indicated that their sexual activity had been affected by their hidradenitis suppurativa (42.9% in EU). 46.3% of patients with hidradenitis suppurativa reported feeling discouraged (49% in EU).



DISCUSSION

The data analysis unveiled a notable consistency between EU and the rest of the world, underscoring the urgency of implementing global measures to address hidradenitis suppurativa . The congruence in outcomes across continents implies shared obstacles and potential for collaborative resolutions. These findings emphasize the need for increased investment in international research, heightened awareness, and standardized treatment methods. It is crucial for healthcare systems to embrace a multidisciplinary strategy to confront the multifaceted aspects of hidradenitis suppurativa , showcasing our dedication to empathetic and efficient management of this intricate and widespread condition.