

PREVALENCE OF VISIBLE SKIN DISEASES: AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY OF 13,138 INDIVIDUALS.

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INTRODUCTION

Having such diseases as psoriasis, eczema, vitiligo, rosacea, and acne does not alter the vital functions but may significantly alter quality of life. The consequences of skin diseases with face and hand involvement, i.e. the socially visible locations, have not been systematically and specifically studied, Investigating this topic was the objective of our study.

MATERIAL & METHODS

This study was a population-based using a representative sample of the general population aged ≥ 18 years from six countries (Canada, China, Italy, Spain, Germany and France). All participants were asked to complete a digital structured questionnaire. To subjects who confirmed the presence of one or more skin diseases, we asked them about their respective locations (hands, face, body)

RESULTS

A total of 13,138 adult participants responded to the questionnaire (2,011 Canadian, 3,050 Chinese, 2,000 French, 2,000 Italian, 2,040 Spanish and 2,037 German).

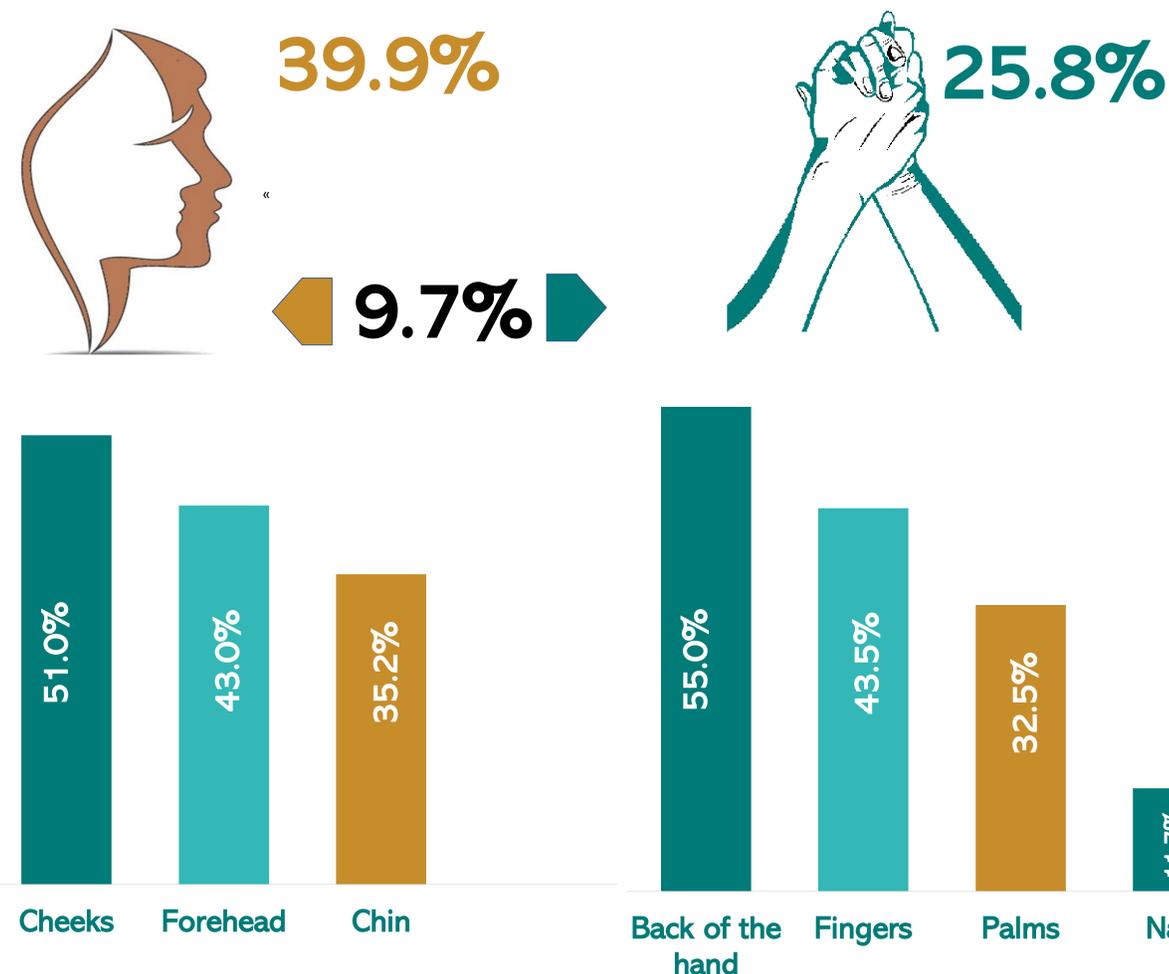
Among these participants, 26.2% (n=3,450) declared suffering from skin diseases, including atopic dermatitis/eczema (9.74%; n=1,280), psoriasis (4.49%; n=591), acne (8.34%; n=1,096), rosacea (3.36%; n=442), chronic hand eczema (3.21%; n=422) and vitiligo (1.31%; n=173). We evaluated the 3072 individuals with one of the 8 "emblematic" skin diseases selected

The average age of the latter was 37.8 ± 15.1 . They were significantly younger than the patients with no display of skin disease (45 ± 15 , $p < 0.001$).

A total of 75.35% of the patients with one of these dermatosis reported their skin disease localized on hands and/or face. [73.95% of men with skin diseases reported hand or face involvement (76.5% among women; no significant difference)]

Of the patients with skin disease, 39.9% (n=1,226) and 25.8% (n=792) reported involvement of the face and /or hands, respectively. A total of 9.7% (n=297) reported simultaneous involvement of the hands and face. A total of 24.6% (n=757) reported exclusive involvement of the body, without involvement face or hand. On the hands, the most frequent location was the back of the hand (55%), followed by fingers (43.5%) and palms (32.5%), plus 11.7% of nail involvement. We observed a significantly higher reported prevalence of hand involvement in men than in women (37.3% vs 33.8%, p value =0.003) and a significantly lower reported prevalence of face involvement in men (45.6% vs 53 %, p value <0.001).

On the face, the most frequent location was the cheeks (51%), followed by the forehead (43%) and the chin (35.2%). The least frequent locations were the lips (10%) and the ears (13.3%), and 18.1% reported scalp involvement.



DISCUSSION

To the best of our knowledge, this report describes the first time the prevalence of visible or apparent dermatoses on a large sample. Three out of 4 patients suffering from a skin disease report involvement of the face and/or hands. One in ten complained of involvement of the hands and face. These data are important to consider when dealing with quality of life or burden of chronic skin diseases.