

Impact of feeling of stigmatization on the lives of adult patients with skin diseases in Israel : Data from the All Skins-All Colors-All Dermatoses: the ALL PROJECT

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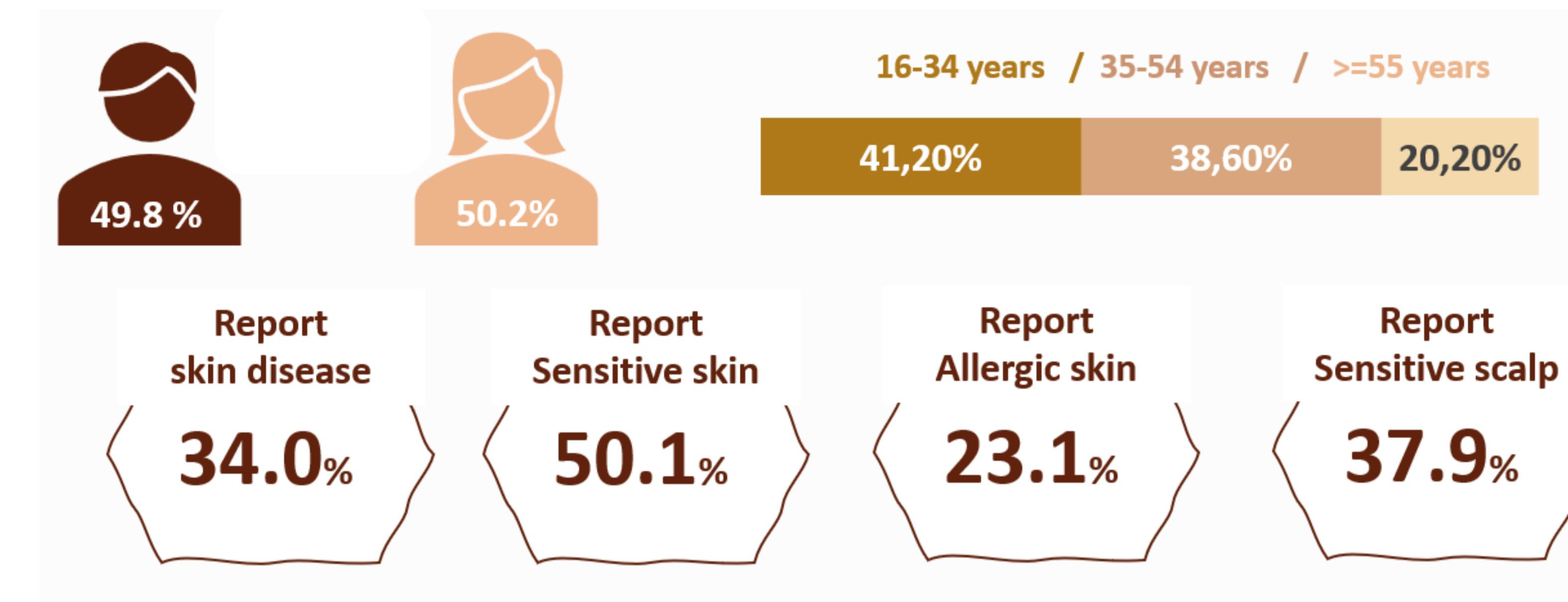


Table 1: Prevalence of FS in SD n=340	N. (%)
Atopic dermatitis / Eczema	34(43,6%)
Psoriasis	33(63,5%)
Acne	61(39,8%)
Rosacea	16(76,2%)
Vitiligo	16(72,7%)
Hidradenitis suppurativa	21(75,0%)
Chronic Hand Eczema	31(67,4%)
Hyperpigmentation	28(43,8%)
Another skin disease not listed:	12(16,2%)

	Positive responses in FS n=122 (%)	Positive responses in non-FS n=218 (%)	p
Impact on professional life			
When you think about your skin problems, how much do you consider it to be inconvenient in your professional life?	78(63,9%)	36(16,5%)	<0.001
Have you had to take time off work or school?	60(53,6%)	19(10,1%)	<0.001
Have you felt less productive in your activity (work/study)?	64(55,2%)	17(8,6%)	<0.001
Have you had the feeling that you were absent from your activity while being there?	64(53,8%)	20(10,3%)	<0.001
Impact on family life			
Have you experienced difficulties in your relationship?	68(60,7%)	11(6,1%)	<0.001
Did you lack time to take care of your family?	56(50,0%)	17(9,0%)	<0.001
Did you feel that you were absent from your family life?	55(49,1%)	17(8,5%)	<0.001
Have you noticed a change in your family, social or professional relationships?	61(52,1%)	9(4,6%)	<0.001
When you think about your skin problems, how embarrassing do you consider it in your personal life?	91(74,6%)	56(25,7%)	<0.001
Impact on interpersonal relationships			
Did you put off things that you thought were important to do?	59(52,2%)	24(12,1%)	<0.001
Do you feel that your sex life has been affected?	62(58,5%)	20(11,2%)	<0.001
Have you given up vacations or hobbies?	56(45,9%)	14(6,4%)	<0.001
Have you had to change plans that were important to you?	56(45,9%)	14(6,4%)	<0.001
Have you felt discouraged?	63(51,6%)	22(10,1%)	<0.001
Have you had to be more careful with your spending, to dip into your savings?	76(62,3%)	34(15,6%)	<0.001
Do you have trouble sleeping?	61(50,0%)	27(12,4%)	<0.001
Did you lack time to take care of yourself?	70(57,4%)	60(27,5%)	<0.001
Have you felt tired?	62(50,8%)	55(25,2%)	<0.001
Do you take this into account when buying clothes?	82(67,2%)	60(27,5%)	<0.001
Have you given up beauty treatments or an appointment with a hairdresser, for example, because of your skin condition?	68(55,7%)	27(12,4%)	<0.001

INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVE

The feeling of stigmatization (FS) in patients suffering from skin disease (SD) can have significant impacts on physical health and mental well-being . Fear of stigma may pose severe psychosocial consequences, which can affect patients social and work life. There is little information about the consequence of FS on the lives of adult patients with SD in Israel. This study aimed to investigate the impact of SD-associated FS on social, professional, and family life and explore the impact of stigma on treatment adherence.

MATERIAL & METHODS

A representative sample of the Israeli population over the age of 16 was selected using the quota method.

The questionnaire gathered information about the patients' demographic and socio-demographic profiles. Patients were considered to be those who reported feelings of stigmatization (FS) if they reported that 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 because of their dermatoses. A comparison of FS and patients without FS (non-FS) was used to evaluate predictors of FS specifically: socio-demographic and clinical parameters, psychological impact on self-perception, relationships, daily life, and social or professional life. The positive response to the question assessed adherence, "Did you get tired of taking a treatment every day?". The patients in the 'visible' group showed SD on at least one visible part of the body

RESULTS

A population of 4000 was selected, including 1954 (48.9%) males and 2046 (51,1%) females respectively (mean age 45.54+/-16.69. (16-83 years). 1607 (40.2%) respondents reported that they were exposed to the sun between 11am & 4pm. The most frequent reason for this risk behaviour was that it corresponded to the most pleasant hours of the day (31.9%) and those the most convenient times of the day for their activities (28.2%). Only 3.5% say they don't believe prevention messages! Age less than 40 years (48.7% vs 34.3%, p <0.0001) and gender (Male 45.8% vs Female 34.8%, p: <0.0001) are associated with a risk of exposure between 11 am & 4 pm. 75.9% (n=3038) of the respondents declared being aware of the recommendations of public health experts who advise against exposure between 11am & 4pm. Respondents who expose themselves between 11 am & 4 pm were less informed of these recommendations as other patients (71.4% vs 79.0%, p <0.0001) Among respondents who say they have been exposed to 2076/2776 (74.8%) used sunscreen products during the sunniest period (32.8%-n=910- every two hours). The motivation of those who use sun protection products is mainly the wish and to reduce the risk of sun burns (71.0%) and to limit the risk of skin cancers (46.0%) (table 1). Even so, 22.7 % admit to using sun cream to spend more time in the sun. On the other hand, among those who say they expose themselves, 700 individuals (25.2%) replied that they do not apply sun protection products and 1166 (42%) that they do not apply sun cream as recommended. They explain their behaviour by the fact that they do not think about it (55.7%), they find it tedious (21.9%). While 19% find the products too expensive, 17. % think it's not useful!

DISCUSSION

In Israel, this is the first study to establish the impact of FS, which affects 35.9% % of patients with DS. Our study established that younger patients reported greater perceived FS, which has been reported in other studies. .