Lack of publications assessing patient impact of vitiligo and alopecia areata

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Current Situation

- Vitiligo and alopecia areata (AA) are chronic immune-mediated diseases with unpredictable disease courses.1
- Despite growing evidence of the profound psychosocial impact of both vitiligo and AA, and the elevated incidence of associated psychological disorders, the perceived burden of both conditions frequently remains driven by cosmetic considerations.2
- Patients with vitiligo and AA often face difficulties in receiving coverage or reimbursement for medications, as well as for hairpieces and wigs in AA, due to low perceptions of burden of disease.3
- Dismissal of disease concerns by healthcare professionals and stigmatizing attitudes of laypersons towards patients with vitiligo and AA suggest that improved awareness and understanding of the holistic impact of both conditions by all stakeholders in the healthcare system is needed.4
- Despite the recent availability of new treatments, both conditions have been the subject of limited clinical research.2

Research Question

- What is the type and content of publications on the disease burden of vitiligo and AA, relative to other major immune-mediated dermatological diseases?

Methods

- Identified publications on disease burden among dermatological conditions via PubMed search
- Psoriasis
- AA
- Poriria
- Atopic dermatitis (AD)
- Systemic sclerosis (SS)
- Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS)

Inclusions:
- Available abstract
- English language
- Published between Jan 1, 2014 and Dec 31, 2023

Screening of vitiligo and AA publications

Results

Conclusions

- At a high level, the publication type profile is broadly similar across all indices studied
- Over half of publications address the QoL impact alone, an increased focus on the economic, psychological, and physical impacts of vitiligo and AA would help to capture a more complete picture of disease burden
- Perspectives from and data relevant to pediatrics, adolescents, and caregivers are currently underrepresented, greater involvement may capture unique insights on disease burden not observed in the current general patient population
- Increasing the number of full texts and introducing EPC or PLS content may facilitate easier accessibility to vitiligo and AA publications and lead to wider recognition of disease burden
- Ultimately, more accessible publications addressing all aspects of disease burden are required to provide a holistic understanding of patient experiences and aid in shifting perceptions of vitiligo and AA

Abbreviations: AA, alopecia areata; AD, atopic dermatitis; EPC, enhanced publication content; HS, hidradenitis suppurativa; PL, plain language summary; QoL, quality of life; SS, systemic sclerosis.


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