



ACNE, ROSACEA, AND RELATED DISORDERS (INCLUDING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA)

THE IMPACT OF ACNE ON PATIENTS' LIVES: INSIGHTS FROM A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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Introduction: The Acne Core Outcomes Research Network (ACORN) has published a consensus-derived core outcome set for use in acne trials. Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) is included in this set but there is currently no universally agreed assessment tool.

Objective: The aim of this systematic review was to identify all studies which addressed the impacts of acne on patients' lives as a first step towards identifying which aspects of HRQOL are most important and how to measure them.

Materials and Methods: A systematic search of Medline, Embase and PsychInfo was conducted from inception to 31 December 2016. Studies meeting the inclusion criteria were retrieved; data on instrument usage and impacts studied were extracted by one reviewer and checked by a second.

Results: 359 articles from 53 countries with sample sizes from <10 to >10,000 were identified. They were published in 133 different journals and were heterogeneous in design. Only 73 articles (20.3%) were published in journals with impact factors of ≥ 4.0 .

134 different published instruments were used to detect/measure impacts. The most common were the Dermatology Quality of Life Index (N=69), the Cardiff Acne Disability Index (N=45), the Acne-Quality of Life Questionnaire (N=30) and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Questionnaire (N=29). Only 3 of the 10 most widely used instruments measured a specific impact (depression with/out anxiety, or self-esteem).

Impacts other than overall HRQOL were collated into eight groups via a thematic analysis: negative self-perceptions, negative psychological consequences, negative effects on relationships, negative effects on daily lives, fear of negative evaluation and its consequences, negative peer behaviors, coping mechanisms, concerns about the future.

Conclusions: This preliminary analysis suggests that measurement of patient-reported





outcomes such as HRQOL in acne trials is in urgent need of rigorous re-evaluation and standardization before inclusion in a core outcome set for universal adoption is feasible.

