**FILLING THE GAP IN PSORIASIS CARE: A QUALITATIVE STUDY ABOUT PATIENTS' NEEDS & EXPECTATIONS**

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF A PSORIASIS NURSE SPECIALIST

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**Population**

- Interviews: 14
- Male: n=6
- Median age: 44 y/o
- Type of care: Standard care: n=9, Specialized care: n=5
- Interviews: n=14
- Median duration: 56'

**BACKGROUND**

Although the need for a holistic approach in psoriasis management is known, there is still a gap with clinical practice. Nurse Specialists (NS) could be in the right position to take up a complementary role to meet these patient needs.

**AIM**

In-depth exploration of patients’ their needs and expectations in current care, and more specifically towards NS.

**METHOD**

Fourteen semi-structured interviews in a divers Flemish psoriasis population.

**RESULTS**

Patients that received a nurse consultation (n=5) showed a positive attitude towards it, attributing specific aspects to nursing care (fig1). Patients who did not receive nursing care (n=9) showed a neutral, open attitude towards this proposal.

**TAKE HOME MESSAGES**

Two crucial turning points in care were identified: ‘education about treatment path’ and ‘access to effective treatment’, avoiding disconnection / improving patient engagement.

Patients valued nurse consultations for the informal, holistic approach with more time available.

Although the need for shared decision making is known, there is still a gap with clinical practice. NS are in the right position to educate patients about the treatment path. At the same time NS can address patients’ psychosocial issues.