**THE ATTENTIVENESS OF DERMATOLOGISTS TOWARDS** **PSYCHOCUTANEOUS MEDICINE IN UKRAINE**

Oleksandra Havryliuk1,2, Yanina Kutasevych1, Mohammad Jafferany3

1 State Establishment “Institute of Dermatology and Venereology of National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine”, Kharkiv, Ukraine

2 Kharkiv National Medical University, Kharkiv, Ukraine

3 College of Medicine, Central Michigan University, Saginaw, Michigan, USA

**Introduction:** Patients with skin diseases often have psychological problems that require appropriate assessment and correction.Generally, dermatologists are not comfortable in treating those patients with psychocutaneous disorders.

**Objective:** The objective of this study was to investigate the understanding and attitude of dermatologists towards psychodermatology and to assess their level of training in about psychodermatologic disorders in Ukraine.

**Materials and Methods:** We distributed a survey questionnaire to dermatologists in the national conference and local regional meetings of dermatologists in Kyiv and Kharkiv from February 2nd, 2018 to June 30th, 2018. The questionnaire was also sent to dermatologists in other cities of Ukraine via email. The participants were requested to provide information on demographic variables, level of training, skills and degree of comfort in managing psychocutaneous disorders; referral patterns, knowledge of patient and family resources on psychodermatology; and interest in continuing medical education (CME) on psychodermatologic disorders.

**Results:** The survey study included 289 dermatologists. Only 16.24 % of the respondents reported a clear understanding of term psychodermatology and 5.2 % of them reported being very comfortable in diagnosing and treating patients with psychodermatologic conditions. And 30.5 % dermatologists felt somewhat uncomfortable. Almost 18 % of dermatologists never referred such patients to psychiatrists. Skin diseases such as vitiligo, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, acne and alopecia areata were reported as the most common diagnoses associated with psychiatric component. Self-injurious skin lesions, trichotillomania, depression associated with skin disease and delusion of parasitosis were the most common conditions wherein patients were referred by dermatologists to psychiatrists. 47.3 % of the respondents had no training and never attended any educational events on psychocutaneous disorders in their professional life. About 83 % of the dermatologists were unaware of any patient and family resources on psychodermatology. 62 % of the respondents expressed interest in attending some educational events on psychodermatologic disorders.

**Conclusion:** Our results showed that dermatologists are not enough aware about psychodermatology.Significant information gaps were also identified in the knowledge of patient or family resources. Survey results showed also a need for training and educational activities on psychocutaneous disorders in Ukraine Obtaining specific training increased dermatologists' comfort level in treating patients with psychodermatological disorders. We recommend the incorporation of formal training and didactics on psychodermatology in dermatology residency programs and hold regular CME events. Dermatology–Psychiatry liaison services will prove helpful in the management of these patients in clinical settings.