Original Article

Health-related quality of life among Chinese people with psoriasis in Hong Kong

香港華人銀屑病患者的健康相關生活質量

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Psoriasis is a common skin disease that may impair health-related quality of life (HRQOL). We sought to describe the HRQOL among local Chinese people with psoriasis by SF-36 Health Survey and to examine the relationship between HRQOL and clinical severity. The SF-36 scores of 132 adult Chinese patients with psoriasis were significantly lower than that of the sex- and age-matched HK healthy controls. This reduction of functioning in psoriasis was comparable to that of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or bronchiectasis. The SF-36 scores had weak correlations with modified PASI suggesting that patient-reported HRQOL and physician-assessed clinical severity were two independent outcome measures.

Keywords: Health-related quality of life (HRQOL), psoriasis, SF-36

Introduction

Psoriasis is a common skin disease that can considerably impair the health-related quality of life (HRQOL). In an early report, the prevalence rate of psoriasis in the Mongoloid races of the Far East including Hong Kong was reported to be 0.3%. Although this prevalence rate was lower than that was reported in the US, it was the fifth most common skin disease attending Hong Kong government skin clinics in 2001. While this