significantly differences in adverse events. In actual practice such events affect a patients' willingness to comply with treatment and therefore the effectiveness of treatment.

**PSS8**

**ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN CHILDHOOD: WHAT "DERMATOLOGICAL FUTURE" FOR THESE CHILDREN?**

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1Hopital Morvan, Brest, France, 2Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

OBJECTIVES: To understand the « dermatological future » of subjects having suffered from atop dermatitis as a child.

METHODS: In each of the 8 following European countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Greece) a sample of the population, representative of the population over the age of 15, was established by CSA Santé. Hence, 4506 individuals were interviewed by phone and selected according to the quotas method. RESULTS: A total of 12.5% of our sample (54% of women) declared having suffered from atop dermatitis; this figure is relatively stable in each country with two extremes: the lowest rate was found in Portugal (6.5%) and the highest rate was seen in Belgium and France with 14.8 and 14.4% respectively. A total of 17.8% said they had never consulted a dermatologist whereas they are 31% in the general population. A total of 51% declared having today dry skin (vs 38%) and 57% said they had sensitive or very sensitive skin (vs 31.8%). A total of 10.3% of subjects with a history of atop said they were currently suffering from atop dermatitis (2.3%) or contact eczema (8%) hence 3 times more than in the global population. Similarly, 27% declared a coexisting pathology during the interview, they are only 12.3% in the general population (acne: 5%, psoriasis: 3.3%, seborrhic dermatitis: 1.35%). These results are twice those observed in the general population.

CONCLUSIONS: Recent studies have indicated atop dermatitis in 10 to 25% of children whereas studies performed in the 60s gave prevalence rates of the order of 5%. Our results (at 12%) therefore confirm these figures. Furthermore, according to our results, it appears that subjects with a history of atop dermatitis are more exposed than the general population to dermatoses which is why preventive patient management and adapted education measures are of particular interest.

**PSS9**

**SENSITIVE SCALP: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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OBJECTIVES: Using an epidemiological approach, evaluate and analyse subjects who consider their scalp to be sensitive.

METHODS: A representative sample of the population aged 15 years old and over was taken by CSA Santé. A total of 1011 individuals were questioned by telephone and selected as per the quotas method. RESULTS: Statistically more women than men considered themselves to be “someone who has a very or rather sensitive scalp” (47.4% vs 40.8%, p = 0.036). While 5.7% of the total population declared that they suffered from a scalp disorder, 11.5% of these were in the sensitive population (p < 0.001). 24% of responders complained of dry scalp, 58% had a normal scalp, 16% an oily scalp and 1% a mixed scalp. A total of 60.3% of responders with a dry scalp also considered that they had a very or rather sensitive scalp, while this percentage dropped to 58.4% in responders with oily scalps and finally to 32.9% in those with a normal scalp (p < 0.001). Subjects with a sensitive skin experienced statistically more frequent stinging, itching and burning than those with non-sensitive scalps. The primary trigger factors were pollution for 54%, heat for 42%, emotion for 47% and shampoo for 47%.

An emotional trigger was significantly more frequent in patients with a sensitive scalp than in the others (53.0% vs 41.4%, p < 0.001). A total of 65.8% of subjects reported sensitive skin declared they had a sensitive scalp vs 49.5% in the other responders (p < 0.001). CONCLUSIONS: Numerous factors can trigger sensitive scalp but not in a systematic fashion. This study made it possible to establish a link between the concepts of sensitive skin and sensitive scalp. Sensitive skin appears to be more frequently observed in patients with a sensitive scalp. Finally, the symptoms that characterise sensitive skin are not systematically the same as those that define a sensitive scalp.

**PSS10**

**SENSITIVE SKIN IN EUROPE: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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OBJECTIVES: To establish a comparative description on the perception of skin sensitivity in 8 European countries representing a total of 285 million inhabitants. METHODS: In each of the 8 following European countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Greece) a sample of the population, representative of the population over the age of 15, was established. Hence, 4506 individuals were interviewed by phone and selected according to the quotas method. RESULTS: When asked “Do you have sensitive skin?” 37.6% of our sample replied ‘sensitive’ or ‘very sensitive’. The non-reply rate was below 1.5%. More women said they had sensitive skin than men, 49.4% versus 37% (p < 0.05). According to interviewed individuals, a dermatological disease was sometimes concomitant with their skin sensitivity: 31.2% of subjects with very sensitive skin declared suffering from a dermatological pathology, 17.6% with sensitive skin, 8.7% with minor skin sensitivity and 3.7% with no skin sensitivity. A history of atopic dermatitis or eczema during childhood was more frequently observed in subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skins (18.5% versus 8.6%). Interviewed individuals who declared having dry or oily skin had significantly and more frequently sensitive or very sensitive skin compared to those with normal skin. Fifty-two percent of individuals with dry skin; 38.4% with oily skin and only 25% with normal skin. CONCLUSIONS: This study is the first study on sensitive skin carried among the European population. In the eight concerned countries, 100,000,000 of subjects declared having ‘sensitive’ or ‘very sensitive’ skin and probably not all have spontaneously consulted their dermatologist for this type of complaint. Dermatologists should therefore systematically ask the question to their patient. The non-reply rate was very low, which implies that the term ‘sensitive skin’ makes sense for the great majority of individuals.

**PSS11**

**SENSITIVE SKINS IN FRANCE: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

Boussetta S, Taieb C

Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

OBJECTIVES: To evaluate the perception of skin sensitivity in France. METHODS: A representative nationwide sample of the French population aged 15 and over was taken. The individuals were questioned by telephone and selected as per the quotas method. RESULTS: To the question “Do you have sensitive skin?” 44.1% of men and 59.4% of women answered “sensitive” or “very sensitive”. Women had significantly more sensitive skin than men (p < 0.001). The no response rate was less than 1.0%. A total of 27.7% of the population with very sensitive skin, 14.3% with sensitive skin, 7.0% with slightly sensitive skin and
2.1% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin (79.0% versus 48.6%, \( p < 0.001 \)). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (18.3% versus 9.8%, \( p < 0.001 \)). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. Subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skin reddened more easily for no reason (26.9% versus 10.5%, \( p < 0.001 \)), after exposure to the sun (50.2% versus 34.0%, \( p < 0.001 \)) or in response to an emotional stimulus (52.2% versus 40.6%, \( p < 0.001 \)).

**CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative Portuguese population. Thus, slightly less than 25 million French people would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term “sensitive skin” is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

**SENSITIVE SKINS IN PORTUGAL: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**Boussetta S, Taieb C**

Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

**OBJECTIVES:** To evaluate the perception of skin sensitivity in Portugal. **METHODS:** A representative nationwide sample of the Portuguese population aged 15 and over was taken. The individuals were questioned by telephone and selected as per the quotas method. **RESULTS:** To the question “Do you have sensitive skin”, 28.5% of men and 26.5% of women answered “sensitive” or “very sensitive”. The no response rate was less than 0.5%. A total of 27.1% of the population with very sensitive skin, 26.9% with sensitive skin, 7.5% with slightly sensitive skin and 7.5% with non sensitive skin also presented with a dermatological condition. Those with dermatosis more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin (57.8% versus 23.0%, \( p < 0.001 \)). A history of childhood atopic dermatitis or eczema was more frequent in patients with sensitive or very sensitive skin (11.9% versus 4.5%, \( p = 0.003 \)). The interviewees who declared that they had dry or oily skin also significantly more frequently reported sensitive or very sensitive skin than those with normal skin. Subjects with sensitive or very sensitive skin reddened more easily for no reason (40.2% versus 22.5%, \( p < 0.001 \)).

**CONCLUSIONS:** This is the first study of sensitive skins to be conducted in a representative French population. Thus, slightly less than 25 million French people would appear to have sensitive or very sensitive skin. This is probably a much higher figure than the population spontaneously reporting this condition to a dermatologist. These specialists should therefore systematically ask their patients this question. The non response rate was negligible, which indicates that the term “sensitive skin” is meaningful to the immense majority of people.

**DRY SKIN: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**Boussetta S, Taieb C**

Pierre Fabre, Boulogne, France

**OBJECTIVES:** To assess and analyse, using an epidemiological approach, subjects with dry skin. **METHODS:** In each of the eight following European countries (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Greece) a sample of the population, representative of the population over the age of 15, was established by CSA Santé. Hence, 4506 individuals were interviewed by phone and selected according to the quotas method. **RESULTS:** In total, 37.9 % of interviewed subjects said their skin was dry. In subjects with dry skin, the sex ratio was in favor of women (39.5% versus 40.5%). Subjects with dry skin also said their skin was sensitive or very sensitive (52.4%) against 28.6% in the rest of the population. Subjects with dry skin had a tendency to consult more than others: 24% said that had never consulted a dermatologist (versus 34.5%). They were also more numerous (16.3%) to have declared suffering from a current dermatological pathology (versus 9.7%) or having a history of atopic dermatitis (16.4% versus 9.62%). Among those who declared having a dermatological pathology, 48% reported contact eczema or atopic dermatitis (vs 28%), 10.4% reported seborrheic dermatitis (vs 5.65), 8.5% reported rosacea (versus 5.65), and 14% reported acne (vs 40.1). Sensitivity to multiple factors, whether physical or chemical, were systematically more significantly important for subjects with dry skin compared with the others. **CONCLUSIONS:** Skin hydration assessment has already been the subjects of numerous scientific studies as this is a major preoccupation both in the field of dermatology and cosmetology. This European study presents the advantage of confirming, among a large European sample, available yet contrasting data/ Dry skin is a source of discomfort and tautness. Causes for skin dryness are manifold and subjects with weakened dry skin should most probably be offered adapted and preventive management.