Title: The Global Research on Impact of Dermatological Diseases (GRIDD)

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Introduction

The GRIDD project is a multi-year project and the first systematic, patient-driven, international study of the impacts of living with dermatological disease. Existing measures markedly underestimate the burden of dermatological diseases leading to under-investment in research and services for these patients.

GRIDD will produce a global patient-reported measure of the impact of living with skin disease co-designed with patients and meet strict psychometric criteria.

Material and Methods

GRIDD consists of five phases (2017-2022):

1) A systematic review (SR) of existing dermatology-specific patient-reported measures.
2) Interviews and focus groups conducted with members of patient organisations (PO).
3) Delphi surveys of patients and specialists will determine whether the concepts identified in phase 2 are recognised and endorsed by a wider group.
4) Cognitive interviews with patients to confirm the content validity of the measure, and statistical analyses to determine the measure’s psychometric structure.
5) The new measure will be launched worldwide (2021) and the data disseminated.

Results

The SR revealed no specific measure of patient impact in dermatology exists. Examination of 36 existing patient-reported measures identified poor psychometric properties; none could be recommended for use. Phases 2 and 3 results will be ready by end of 2020.

Discussion

GRIDD’s novel patient-centric methodology and measure will address shortcomings in the DLQI and global rankings (PBI, DALY, GBD) and greatly enhance patient perspectives in dermatology by providing quantifiable patient-impact data. It supports local, regional and international attempts to better position dermatology and encourage decision-makers and stakeholders to include these diseases in their policies.