Uncovering patient-reported outcome differences between undiagnosed and diagnosed individuals with moderate to severe Psoriasis in Europe

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Introduction

- Psoriasis is a chronic, immune-mediated inflammatory condition characterized by inflamed, scaly lesions that can affect any area of the skin.[1]
- An estimated 6.4 million people in Europe have psoriasis.[2]
- Individuals with moderate to severe psoriasis have greater negative impact on their quality of life compared to those without psoriasis.[3]
- Undiagnosed individuals with psoriasis have a greater negative impact on their quality of life when compared to individuals with diagnosed psoriasis.[4]

Objective

To compare demographics and patient-reported outcomes (health-related quality of life [HRQoL], work productivity and activity impairment [WPAI]), and healthcare resource use (HCRU) between diagnosed and treated vs. experiencing but undiagnosed individuals with moderate to severe psoriasis in the EU4 (France, Germany, Spain, Italy) and United Kingdom (UK).

Methods

Data source

Data from the 2022 EU4+UK National Health and Wellness Survey (N=62,005), a nationally-representative, cross-sectional online survey, was analyzed. Respondents who self-reported experiencing moderate to severe psoriasis were stratified as having a physician diagnosis and use prescriptions ("diagnosed Rx") vs. not having a physician diagnosis ("undiagnosed"). Demographics, HRQoL (RAND-36), WPAI, and HCRU were compared between groups using bivariate statistics.

Sample

- Residents of 4EU+UK
- Aged ≥18 years
- Self-reported experiencing moderate to severe psoriasis
- Stratified as having a physician diagnosis and use prescriptions (Rx) vs. not having a physician diagnosis

Demographics	Health characteristics
Age	Obesity (as defined by body mass index)
Gender	Experience of psoriatic arthritis
Employment status	Experience of COVID-19
	Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI)[5]

Patient reported outcomes
RAND-36[6,7] • Mental Health Composite Score • Physical Health Composite Score
Work Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire (WPAI)[8]
Healthcare resource use in past 6 months
Number of healthcare provider visits
Number of ER visits
Number of hospitalizations

Statistical analyses

Unadjusted comparisons of patient demographic and patient reported outcomes between groups were conducted using chi-square tests and ANOVA tests for categorical and continuous variables, respectively. Two-sided p-values <0.05 were considered statistically significant.

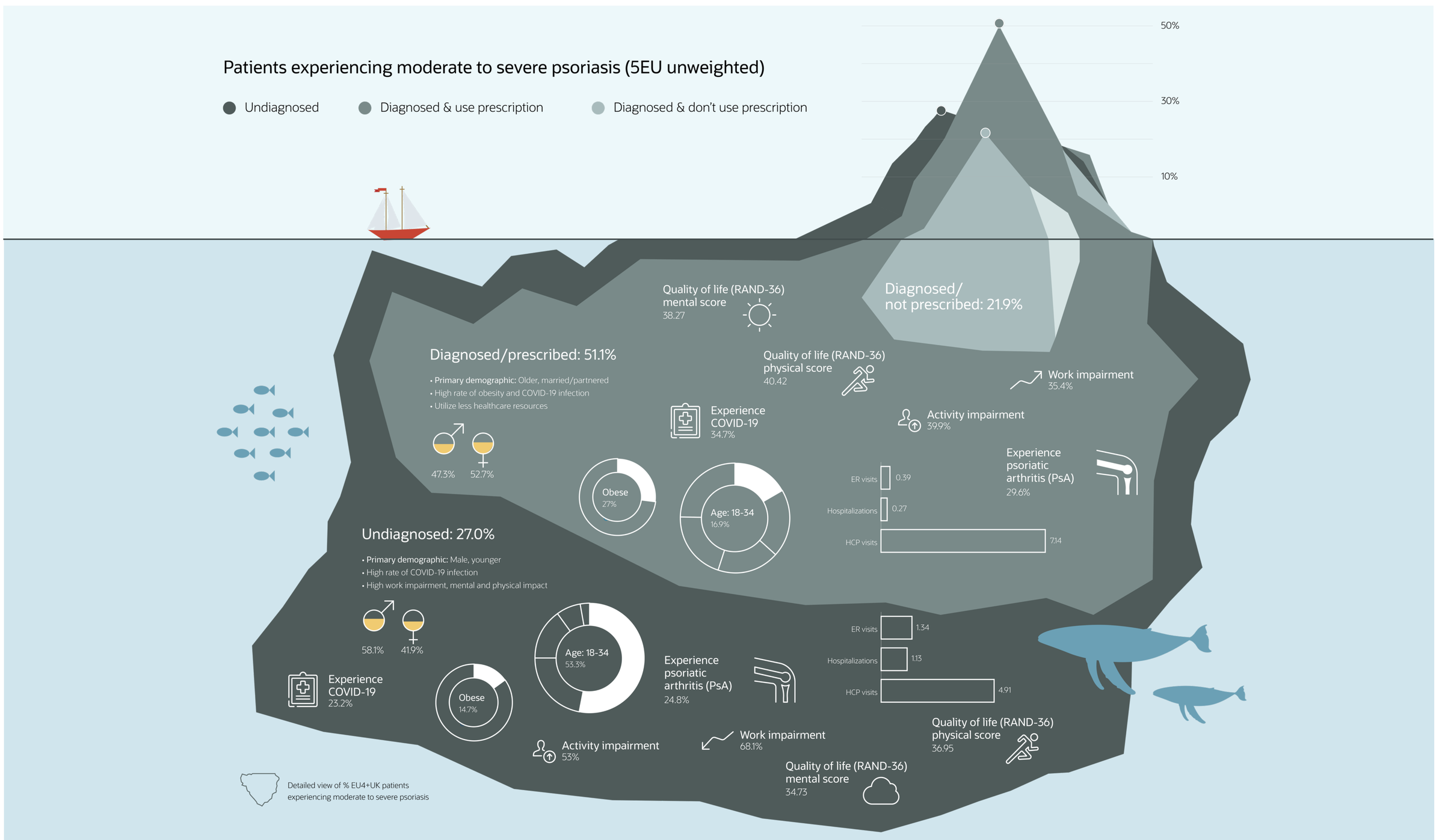
Results

Patient Demographics and Health Characteristics

Among moderate/severe psoriasis individuals in the EU4+UK, a total of 717 were diagnosed and treated ("diagnosed Rx") whereas 379 were experiencing psoriasis but not diagnosed ("undiagnosed"). Those who were undiagnosed were younger with 53.3% falling into the 18-34 age bracket compared with 16.9% of diagnosed Rx patients (p<0.001). The undiagnosed group had a higher proportion of males (58.1%) relative to the diagnosed Rx group. The majority of undiagnosed individuals (71.5%) reported some form of employment. Diagnosed Rx patients were more likely to be obese (27% vs. 14.7%, p<0.001) than those who were undiagnosed. A higher proportion of diagnosed Rx patients had COVID-19 than those who were undiagnosed (34.7% vs. 23.2%, p<0.001). However, undiagnosed individuals had greater comorbidity burden (Charlson Comorbidity Index: 0.91 vs 0.55, p<0.001) than diagnosed Rx patients.

Patient Reported Outcomes

Undiagnosed individuals had worse mental health composite scores (34.73 vs 38.27, p<0.001) and physical composite scores (36.95 vs 40.42, p<0.001); differences exceeded minimally important difference for these measures. There was also greater overall work impairment (68.1% vs 35.4%, p<0.001) and activity impairment (53% vs 39.9%, p<0.001) compared with diagnosed Rx patients. Undiagnosed individuals had higher numbers of emergency room visits (1.34 vs 0.39, p<0.001) and hospitalizations (1.13 vs. 0.27, p<0.001) in the past six months than diagnosed Rx. In contrast, diagnosed Rx patients had higher numbers of visits to any traditional healthcare provider in the past six months (7.14 vs. 4.91, p<0.001).



Conclusions

Undiagnosed psoriasis individuals had higher work impairment, lower HRQoL (both mental and physical), and incurred higher HCRU compared with diagnosed and prescription treated psoriasis patients in the EU4+UK. Improvements in diagnosis rates and treatment rates may help alleviate some of the burdens experienced by patients with psoriasis.

Limitations

All data in this study come from a self-reported patient survey. Therefore, the responses are subject to recall bias and cannot be validated using claims or medical chart data. Great care is taken to ensure that the NHWS is nationally representative, in terms of respondent age and gender within each country. However, this psoriasis population may not be representative of all; this online psoriasis patient sample may not generalize to all psoriasis populations patients. (e.g, other European populations or populations with infrequent internet access).

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