

Unmet therapeutic needs in Hidradenitis Suppurativa from patients’ and physicians’ perspective in Greece

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INTRODUCTION

- Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic inflammatory skin condition that can progress to significant tunnels and scars that affect severely quality of life, especially if diagnosis and treatment are delayed.¹
- Clinical management is challenging and consists of both medical and surgical approaches, which must often be combined for best outcomes. Therapeutic approaches have evolved rapidly in the last decade and include the use of topical therapies, systemic antibiotics, hormonal therapies, and immunomodulating medications.²

OBJECTIVE

- The present study was conducted to understand disease management and challenges faced by patients with HS in Greece.

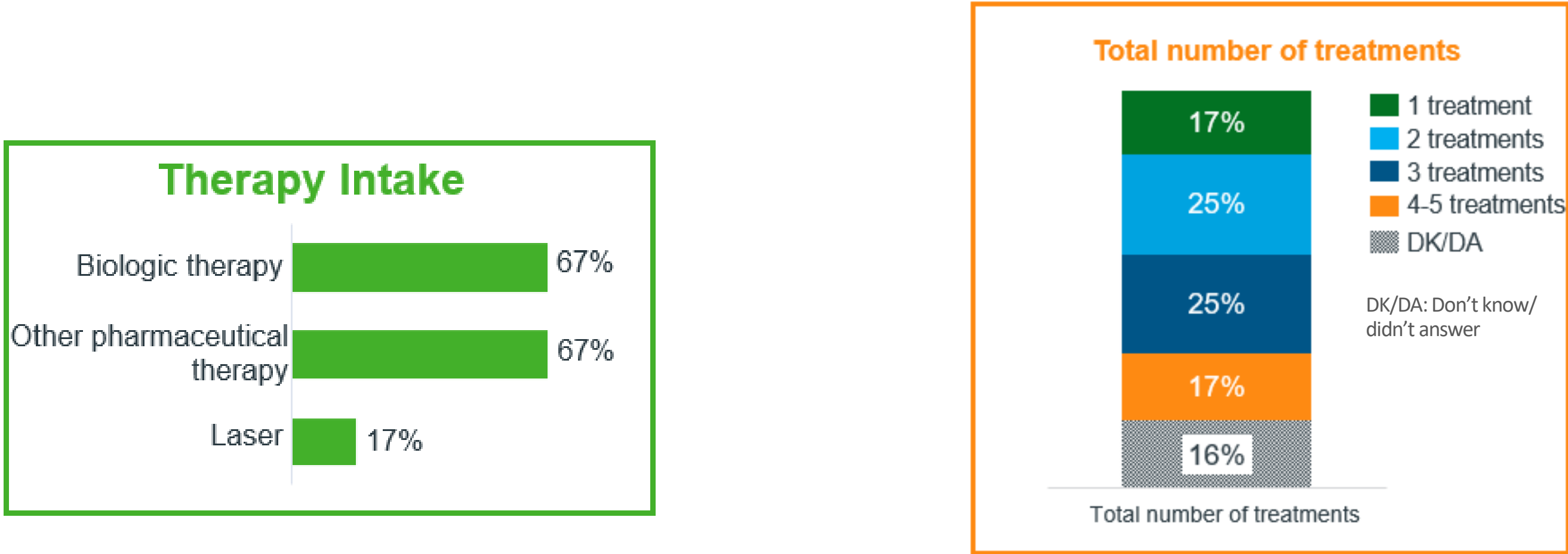
METHODS

- The survey was conducted via a structured questionnaire and patients’ recruitment was implemented via physicians. All patients signed a Consent Form to participate in the survey.

RESULTS

- Twelve patients with HS participated in the survey. The demographic characteristics of the total HS patients’ sample were: females (83%), <40 years old (75%), high level of education (75%), currently working (75%), singles (50%). Disease severity at the time of sampling was categorized by the treating physician according to IHS4: severe in 42%, moderate in 50% and mild in 8% of patients.
- Biologic (67%) and other pharmaceutical therapies (67%) are the most commonly-cited therapies, while half (50%) of patients reported that they have received in total 2-3 different treatments since diagnosis (Figure 1).

Figure 1: HS therapies



- Half of patients report facing challenges with their previous treatments, with the lack of effectiveness being the major one (Figure 2). 75% of patients declare that the primary reason for switching dermatologist was treatment’s lack of effectiveness (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Challenges faced by patients with previous treatments

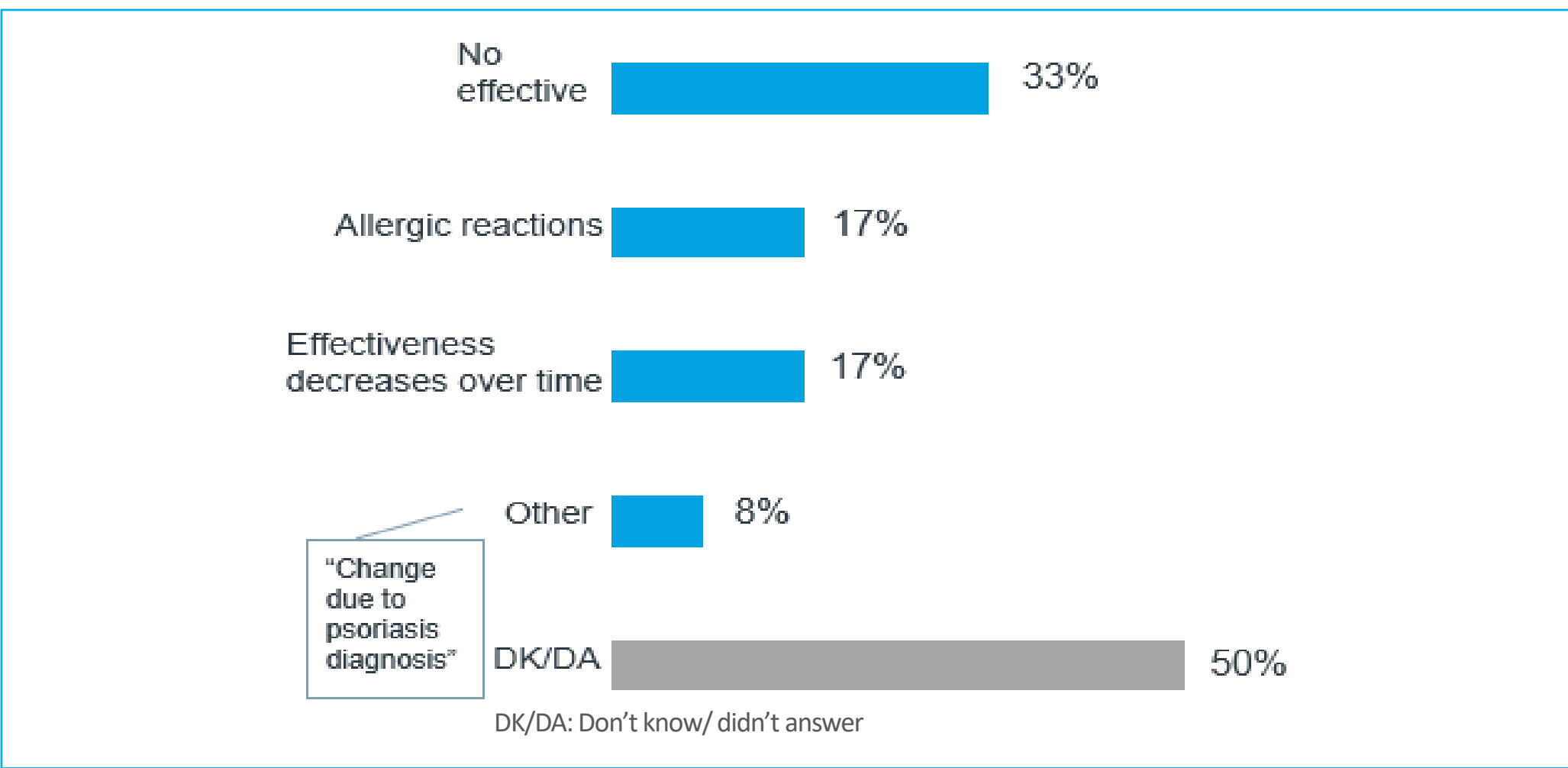
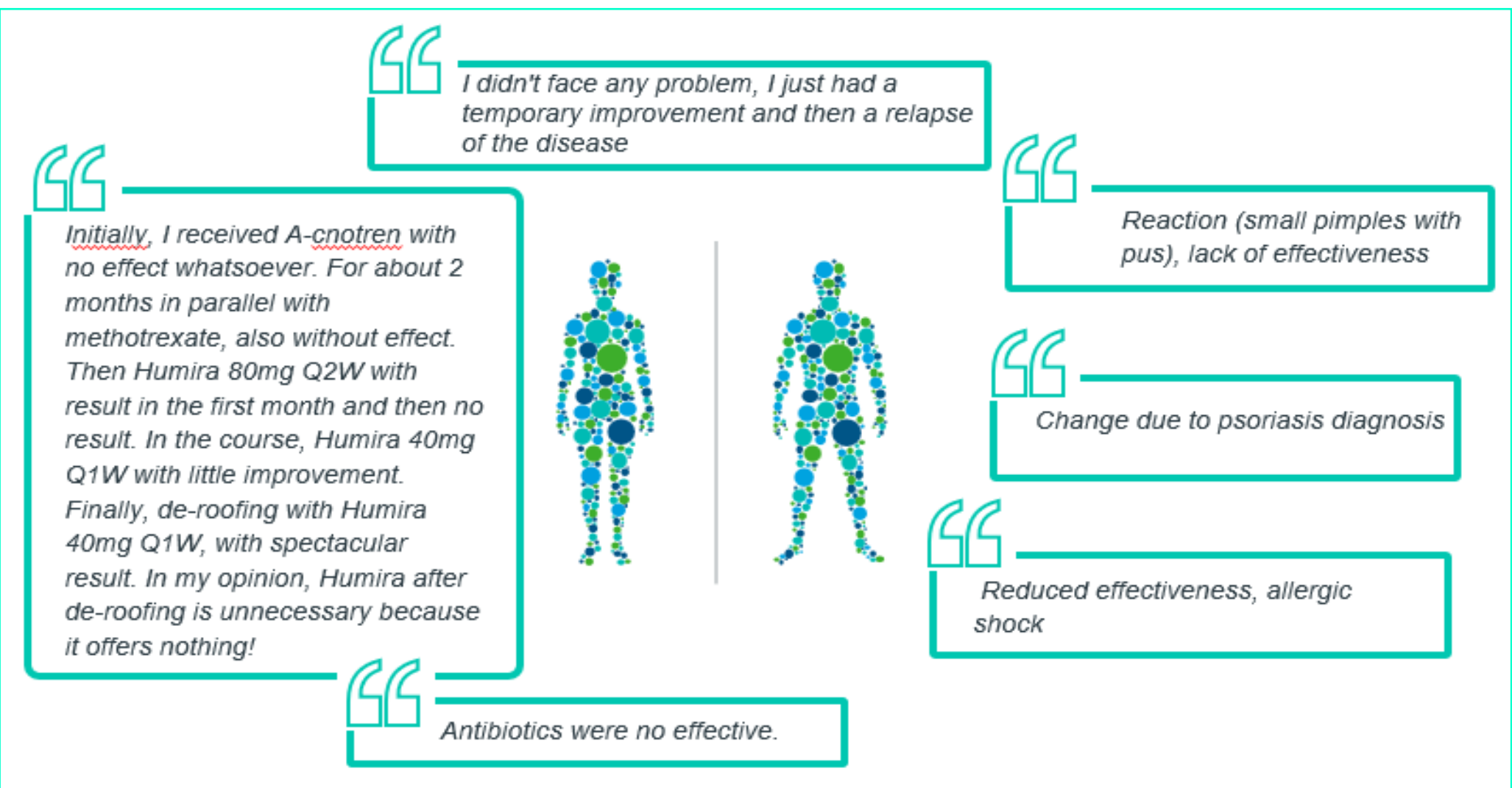


Figure 3: Reasons for switching dermatologist

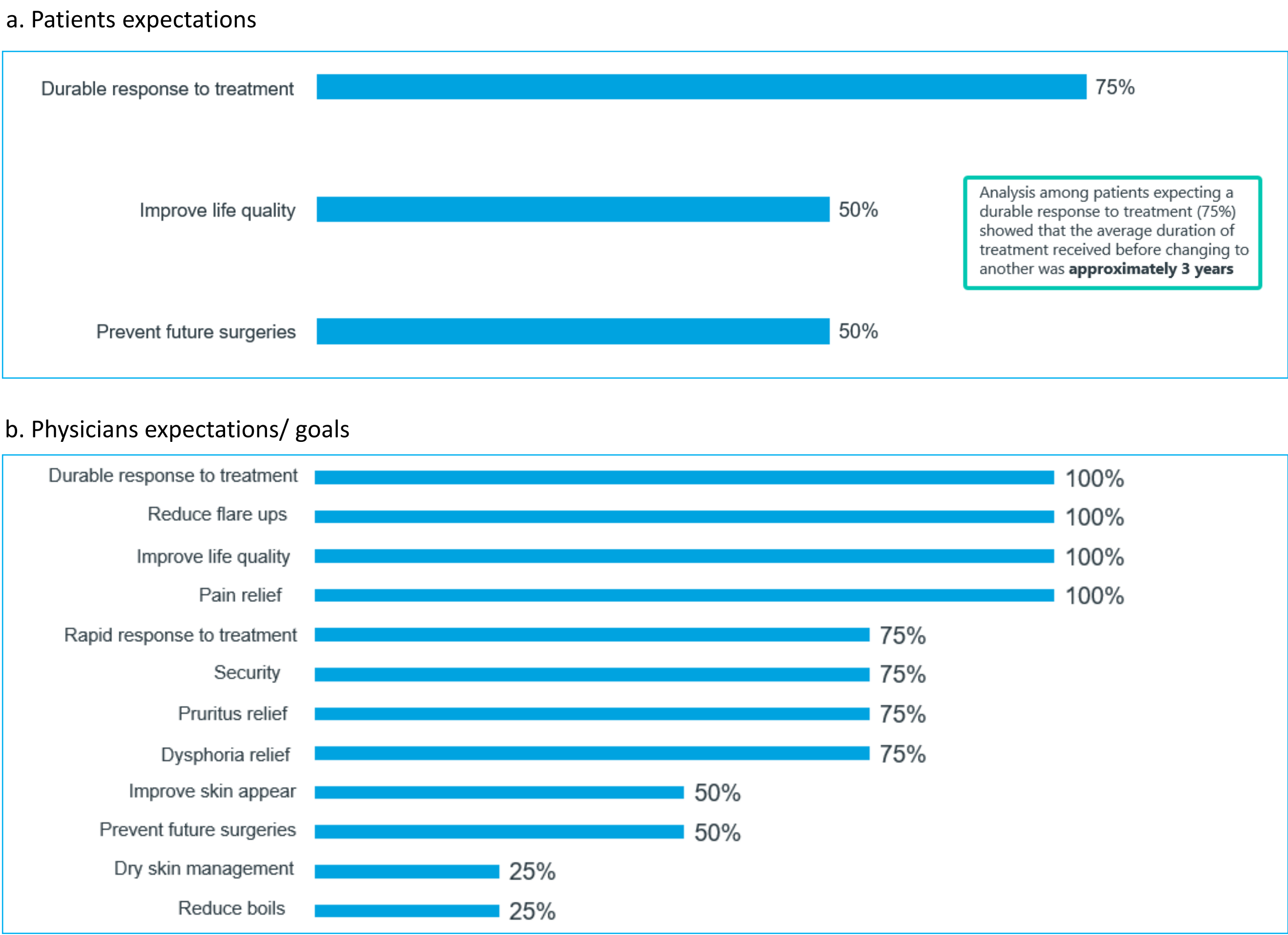


DISCLOSURES

This study was funded by Novartis Hellas. All authors contributed to interpretation of the results, preparation, review and approval of the final poster. KK, DI, XM, EK are employees of Novartis Hellas. MK is an employee of IQVIA Hellas, which was a paid consultant to Novartis in connection with the development of this study.

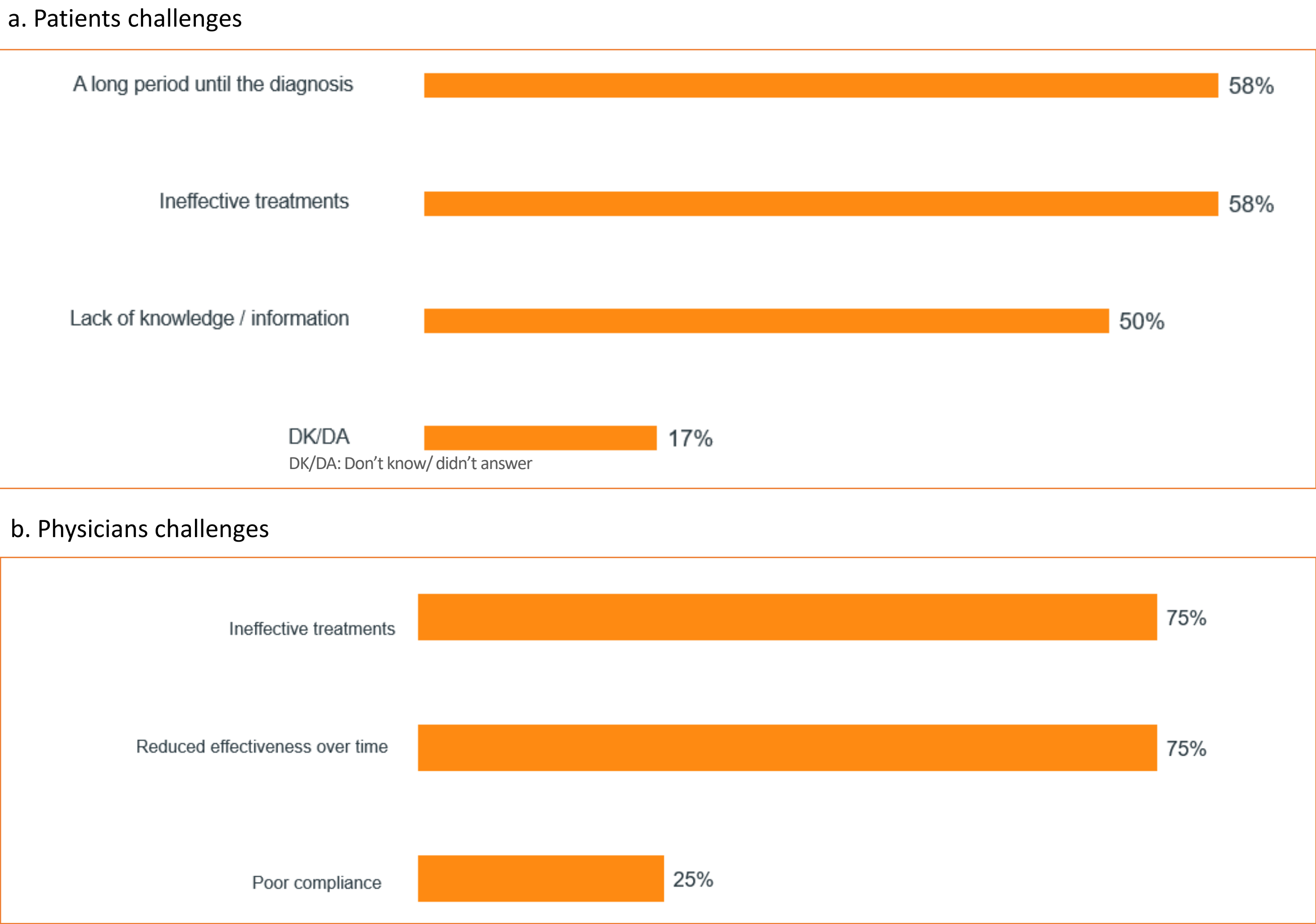
- The top three expectations of patients regarding treatment are durable response to treatment, quality of life improvement and prevention of future surgeries (Figure 4a), while top expectations of physicians are durable response to treatment, reduction of flare ups, quality of life improvement and pain relief (Figure 4b).

Figure 4: Expectations / goals regarding current treatment



- Most important challenges that HS patients face are the long period until diagnosis and ineffective treatments (Figure 5a), while 75% of physicians state that ineffective treatments and reduced effectiveness over time are the major challenges in terms of HS management (Figure 5b).

Figure 5: Challenges due to HS management



CONCLUSIONS

- Patients’ perspectives substantiated major challenges in HS management. Ongoing efforts and strategies to help improve delivery of care may include public awareness campaigns, and transparent and compassionate patient–physician interactions about HS.²
- It is crucial to further invest in health-care providers’ education to ensure appropriate treatment for HS patients. Although there is no cure for HS, symptoms can be managed if the appropriate diagnosis is made on time.³ Addressing these challenges, may improve the quality of life for individuals living with HS and reduce the burden of this chronic disease.

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