

ATTENTION NEWS / HEALTH EDITORS

Canadians With Psoriasis Have Spoken And They Want More Support



Toronto, April 10, 2008 - Information and support resources are not meeting the needs of people with psoriasis, say Canadians who suffer from this chronic and life-altering condition. Psoriasis Support Canada - a national and bilingual online support community (www.psoriasisissupport.ca) - announced breakthrough results from a national Quality of Life Assessment of Canadians with Psoriasis. The online research study reveals long-overdue insights into the impact of psoriasis on those living with the condition every day. The study generated over 1,300 responses and was developed in collaboration with two Canadian dermatologists, Dr. Norman Wasel and Dr. Yves Poulin.

Edmonton-based dermatologist Dr. Wasel notes, "This study confirms what most practicing dermatologists already suspect: psoriasis is a condition that negatively impacts the quality of life of sufferers - physically, emotionally and socially."

Dr. Wasel, a member of the Psoriasis Support Canada Material Review Board, explains, "Many patients are frustrated and feel under-treated, and a surprising number of sufferers are not undergoing any treatment or have given up on treatments altogether." He adds, "This speaks to a large unmet need for new psoriasis treatments, such as biologics or narrow-band ultraviolet B light therapy. My hope is that more sufferers and health care professionals will seek information about these newer treatments."

Results from the study confirm that an overwhelming need for support and education is essential in helping to manage psoriasis, particularly in the area of treatment and compliance. Psoriasis Support Canada will use the findings to continue to develop educational resources for psoriasis patients and health care professionals. Two brochures are currently available online at www.psoriasisissupport.ca: The Family Guide to Psoriasis and Are Biologics Right for You?

Selected key findings from the Quality of Life Assessment of Canadians with Psoriasis include:

- The majority of respondents suffer from plaque psoriasis (61 per cent), followed by scalp psoriasis (49 per cent) and psoriatic arthritis (24 per cent).
- Seventy-six per cent reported their psoriasis to be moderate-to-severe.
- Flare-ups were typically said to be triggered by emotional (89 per cent) and environmental factors (70 per cent).
- Fifty-eight per cent revealed that they are wearing long pants and sleeves to cover their psoriasis.
- Seventy-nine per cent said the most common emotion they felt in coping with their psoriasis is frustration, followed by 70 per cent who indicated embarrassment.
- Family physicians (84 per cent), the internet (81 per cent) and written material (81 per cent) were identified as the primary sources of information on psoriasis; however, only three per cent were extremely satisfied with the information they received, while 66 per cent were either only somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied at all.
- An overwhelming 87 per cent of currently-used treatments are topical, but only 6 per cent of those who are currently treating their psoriasis are extremely satisfied with the results.
- The most important factors for choosing a treatment option are safety and long-term control (94 per cent), minimal side-effects (91 per cent) and rapid effectiveness (88 per cent).
- Forty-five per cent look for intermittent treatment, which allow for periods of "time off" from treatment.



Press Release

To access Psoriasis Support Canada's comprehensive online community and to obtain a full report on the Quality of Life Assessment of Canadians with Psoriasis, please visit www.psoriasisupport.ca.

About Psoriasis Support Canada

Psoriasis Support Canada began in response to an ever-growing need for support resources for people living with psoriasis in Canada and following considerable research into the most effective patient-driven psoriasis organizations. Psoriasis Support Canada has been able to draw upon the advice, information and effectiveness of other support programs in order to create a Canadian-based, psoriasis support vehicle. Psoriasis Support Canada is a national, non-commercial and fully bilingual community of psoriasis sufferers, their families, friends and employers. Psoriasis Support Canada connects people with psoriasis or who have an interest in this disease to health and lifestyle resources, health care professionals and services. The program provides practical tips and information to help them better understand, manage and treat their condition.

Psoriasis Support Canada has been made possible thanks to an educational grant from Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc., a leader in the field of dermatology.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with dermatologist Dr. Norman Wasel, please contact:

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