MEDIA RELEASE

10 APRIL 2017

A FRESH APPROACH TO PSORIASIS

Today, The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) has released a position statement on treatment goals in the care of patients who suffer from psoriasis.

Once viewed only as an annoying skin condition, psoriasis is now recognised as a chronic disease with an increased risk of various other medical conditions, poor health-related quality of life and high prevalence of psychological difficulties. According to data from the Australasian Psoriasis Registry, patients have an average of 2.1 co-morbidities and some 10 or more, 50% are obese and 16.4% also suffer depression.

President of the ACD, Associate Professor Chris Baker says: “The purpose of the position statement is to provide recommendations to health professionals on how best to treat psoriasis in the Australian health care system and what targets we should being aiming for. The recommendations will help dermatologists and General Practitioners (GPs) in making better decisions for their patients.”

The ACD position statement explains what moderate to severe psoriasis is and the importance of assessing the effect of the condition on life quality. Importantly, it provides doctors with expert opinion on current treatment targets and outcomes that patients can reasonably expect.

Karen Ridsale from Psoriasis Australia says: “Psoriasis is a condition that can really make you feel that life is unfair and can be a bit overwhelming at times. Doctors often take time to diagnose you, but once you learn that you have a lifelong condition, it’s time to find out more for your own good health.”

Establishing specific goals for treatment in routine clinical care has been shown to improve patient outcomes. Using a European consensus program as a reference point, treatment goals appropriate to the Australian health care context were developed by the Australian Psoriasis Treatment Goals Project to improve clinical and quality of life outcomes for patients with psoriasis.

Dr Warren Weightman, dermatologist with the ACD says: “I am confident now that I can treat a patient with moderate to severe psoriasis and bring them under good control with a combination of standard treatments and/or biologic therapies. It is however sometimes difficult to clear some patients whose psoriasis is not severe enough to qualify for a biologic. The use of biologics in psoriasis has changed the way we manage these patients and has been the main breakthrough that has improved patient care.”

A/Prof Baker says: “Our focus is to train and maintain highly qualified specialists who work to improve outcomes in skin health of individuals and communities in Australia and to provide world’s best practice.”

Links to further information

Treatment goals for psoriasis position statement

Dr Warren Weightman profile
A-Z of Skin

Find a local dermatologist

For further information on the ACD, visit www.dermcoll.edu.au, or see our updates on Facebook Twitter at @DermatologyACD #dermcoll #dermatology #ACD #skin or LinkedIn

ENDS

About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

Media enquiries:

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with a dermatologist, please contact:

Roshan Riddell
Marketing and Communications Specialist
Australasian College of Dermatologists
+61 2 8741 4150
roshan@dermcoll.edu.au