

National and multinational guidelines - What do we need?

Online survey on awareness of different national and European psoriasis guidelines

Alexander Nast¹, Knud Kragballe², Kristian Reich³, Ulrich Mrowietz⁴

¹ Division of Evidence Based Medicine, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

² Department of Dermatology, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark

³ Dermatologikum Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany

⁴ Department of Dermatology, University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany

Background

Guidelines can be developed and commissioned on a national or multinational (European/international) level. The usefulness of different guidelines on different regional levels is an ongoing open discussion. Guidelines evaluation can be approached by looking at the items “awareness”, “agreement”, “adoption” and “adherence”.

Objective

To assess the awareness of national and European guidelines as a means of guidelines evaluation and usefulness of European guidelines.

Methods

Conducting an exploratory study initiated by the Progressive Psoriasis Initiative (PPI), which focuses on the improvement of care provided to psoriasis patients. An online survey was carried out in five selected European countries (Germany [D], Spain [E], France [F], Italy [I], and the United Kingdom [UK]) among 257 dermatologists assessing the awareness of different guidelines (European, British, German, Spanish, French). Participating volunteers registered with a field market research company database (Medefield) were asked the questions: “Which of the following guidelines are you aware of?” and “How did you become aware of the guidelines mentioned above?”

Results

Mean awareness of European guidelines in all countries was 54 %, with lower results in countries with early development (< 2006) of their own national guidelines (UK: 33 %, D: 37 %) and higher awareness in countries with late development (> 2010) of national guidelines (E: 63 %, I: 79 %). Awareness of national guidelines was very high within their respective countries (mean 92 %). The national guidelines were the best known guidelines in their respective countries, always followed by the European guidelines (Figure 1 and 2). The most important tools for dissemination of all guidelines were the original publication (63 %) and scientific presentations (46 %).

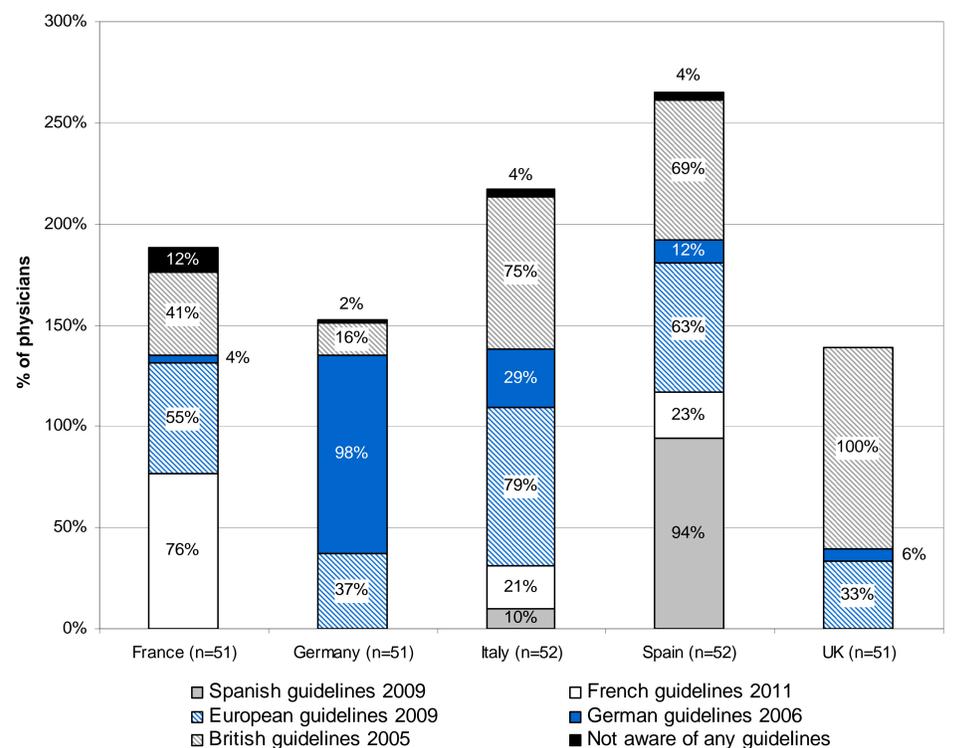


Figure 1: Percentage of physicians aware of each of the guidelines by country.

The highest awareness was found for the guidelines of the British Association of Dermatologists, reaching 100 % in the UK, followed by the German guidelines, known to 98 % of the participants in the survey in Germany, and the Spanish guidelines, known to 94 % of the Spanish respondents. The French guidelines was known to 75 % of the French participants.

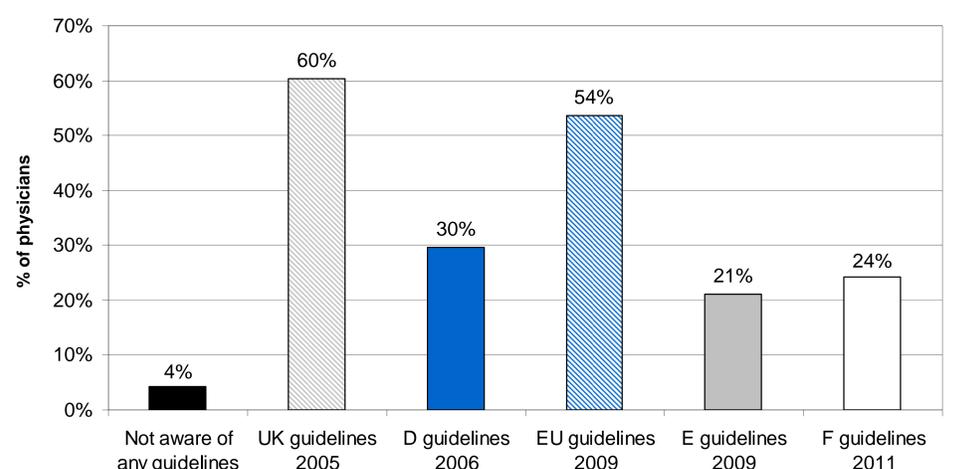


Figure 2: Percentage of all physicians aware of each of the guidelines (n=257).

Discussion

This study identified widespread interest in guidelines as assessed by the grade of awareness. Awareness of European guidelines was high. National guidelines can reach almost complete awareness within their respective countries. The original publication is still the most important dissemination tool for guidelines.