

## DIADERM: A Study of Diagnoses in Outpatient Dermatology Practice<sup>☆</sup>



### Objetivo DIADERM: el diagnóstico en la consulta externa de dermatología

In light of the lack of data on the diagnoses reached at outpatient dermatology clinics throughout Spain, the authors of the article decided to design the DIADERM study, whose objective was to analyze the diagnoses reached in these settings.

A number of members of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (AEDV), representing each of Spain's autonomous communities, were randomly selected. Over the course of two 3-day periods, these dermatologists recorded the diagnoses reached in the course

of their clinical practice as well as additional patient data.

The authors estimated that more than 600 000 patients per month receive a diagnosis from a dermatologist in Spain and that an average of 28 patients are seen per day per clinic (a higher number than in other specialties). Most patients in public health care settings were referred by a primary care physician, whereas personal initiative was the most common patient origin in private settings. The most frequent diagnoses were actinic keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, and melanocytic nevi.

This was the first nationwide study in Spain to analyze the diagnoses reached in outpatient dermatology clinics. The information gathered in this study should be used to guide health care planning and to lay the groundwork for future studies.

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## Cross-Cultural Adaptation to Spanish of the Hair Specific Skindex-29 Scale: A Valuable Tool for Our Clinical Practice<sup>☆</sup>



### Validación transcultural al español de la escala *Hair Specific Skindex-29*: una valiosa herramienta en nuestra consulta

In medical terms, alopecia has traditionally been considered a minor problem, with mainly cosmetic consequences. However, people with alopecia experience considerable psycho-emotional stress and impaired quality of life. The harmful effects of alopecia on psychosocial well-being are not surprising if we take into account the importance attributed to hair in society, especially in the case of women. Hair has been considered a symbol of beauty and health for centuries. Its loss is thought to diminish attractiveness and is considered a sign of aging, with a negative effect on self-esteem and social life.<sup>1</sup>

As in other dermatologic conditions, the severity of alopecia is not a good predictor of its impact on quality of

life.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, it is particularly important to have tools to measure quality of life in patients with alopecia. In this field, findings of Guerra-Tapia et al.<sup>3</sup> in this edition of *ACTAS DERMOSIFILIOGRÁFICAS*, are especially valuable. The authors present their cross-cultural validation of the *Hair Specific Skindex-29* scale in Spanish.

Questionnaires have proven to be very useful in the field of psychodermatology and play a key role in providing personalized medical care. In contrast with its complex design and validation,<sup>4</sup> a good questionnaire should be easy and quick to complete by the patient. The methodological rigor with which Guerra-Tapia et al.<sup>3</sup> have carried out the cross-cultural validation of *Hair Specific Skindex-29* enables us to guarantee this scale a place in our clinical practice.

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## Editorial Decisions in Dermatology Journals: Is the Impact Factor a Double-Edged Sword?☆



### Las decisiones editoriales en las revistas dermatológicas: ¿es el factor de impacto un arma de doble filo?

Among the many tools now available for evaluating the quality of scientific publications, journal impact factor (IF) remains the metric most widely used to reflect both quality and prestige. However, diverse variables can be adjusted to bring about a direct or indirect effect on a journal's authentic IF. For example, journals in clinical specialties like dermatology could seek to print articles that lean toward topics of more general medical interest in order to attract more citations, thereby improving their metrics. That decision, however, might undermine their mission to inform readers on more specialized and subspecialized topics, the ones that lead to a deeper and more exhaustive understanding of specific diseases.<sup>1</sup>

This issue of *Actas Dermo-Sifiliográficas* contains an excellent study by Rodríguez-Lago et al<sup>2</sup> on some of the reasons behind editorial decisions. The authors explain why specialized journals place more importance on certain types of articles today. They also discuss how editorial boards must

think carefully about how to improve their IF while balancing that aim against any journal's need to keep readers' interest high by publishing genuinely new content.

In our formal medical training, we are called on to think critically in order to acquire depth of understanding of diseases. But we must also then go on to report our clinical experiences and research findings by publishing papers in the most respected journals. Bibliometric studies like that of Rodríguez-Lago et al<sup>2</sup> are necessary because they can help us plan strategies toward reaching our goal of placing our work in a high-IF journal.

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