Education via Medical Simulation Improves Screening and Treatment of Psoriasis

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Psoriasis is an inflammatory, autoimmune disorder with predominantly joint and skin symptoms characterized by scaling and erythematous plaques that may be painful or mostly pruritic, and may cause significant quality of life issues. Significantly and poorly understood by a majority of dermatologists, there are conditions associated with psoriasis such as cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes, psoriatic arthritis, and depression. The risk for myocardial infarction is higher in patients who are psoriatic than in non-affected individuals with the associated with psoriasis such as cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes, psoriatic arthritis, and depression. The mortality. However, gaps in performing according to best practices exist. Gaps in clinical knowledge and performance exist. Gaps in performing according to best practices exist. Gaps in performance for clinician to match real-life experiences to improve clinical decision-making related to treatment of patients with psoriasis.

Methods

Dermatologists and other healthcare providers participating in this online medical simulation were asked to make decisions regarding how they would screen, treat, or manage a hypothetical patient with psoriasis (“Lisa”). Figures 3 and 4 show results from 2 of these decision points. Figure 3 shows the percentage of learners selecting their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices when initially consulting with a patient with psoriasis. There were no correct responses, although “Review medication with her” was considered an incorrect response for a 1st choice. Figure 4 shows the percentage of learners selecting various treatment options for the patient. After reviewing the patient case with the experts during the simulations, 62% of participants selected the optimal choice to change the patient to a systemic or biologic therapy (statistical comparisons were not conducted). After making a selection, participants moved on to hear an expert opinion on optimal choices based on treatment guidelines.

Results

The primary objective of this program was to increase dermatologists’ and other healthcare providers’ knowledge and performance as it pertains to screening and treating patients with psoriasis. 

• This format provided a safe environment for clinicians to match real-life experiences to improve clinical decision-making related to treatment of patients with psoriasis.

CONCLUSIONS

• Dermatologists and other healthcare providers participating in this online medical simulation significantly improved their knowledge and clinical practice behaviors as a result of the activity.

• Participants learned about best practices for screening, treatment, and counseling, resulting in more frequent screening for psoriatic arthritis, compared to matched controls. This format provided a safe environment for clinicians to match real-life experiences to improve clinical decision-making related to treatment of patients with psoriasis.

• This was OUTSTANDING! I had no idea the vast medical implications for patients with psoriasis!

• Everything was useful, well done. Really enjoyed the presentation.

REFERENCES

