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Introduction

Although rarely serious, adverse effects of cancer treatments on the skin, hairs and nails can have an impact on quality of life and self-image. It is widely accepted that dermocosmetic and aesthetic care can improve health, comfort and well-being, but cost of these products can limit their use.

Methods

DERMOCOS is a multicenter observational study designed to determine the level of knowledge and access to dermocosmetic and aesthetic care among cancer patients. A questionnaire was completed by patients before receiving their treatment in oncology day hospital ward. The EPICES score (Evaluation of Precarity and Inequalities in Health Examination Centers) was used to estimate precarity [1]. Statistical analysis was performed by using EasyMedStat software.

Discussion/Conclusion

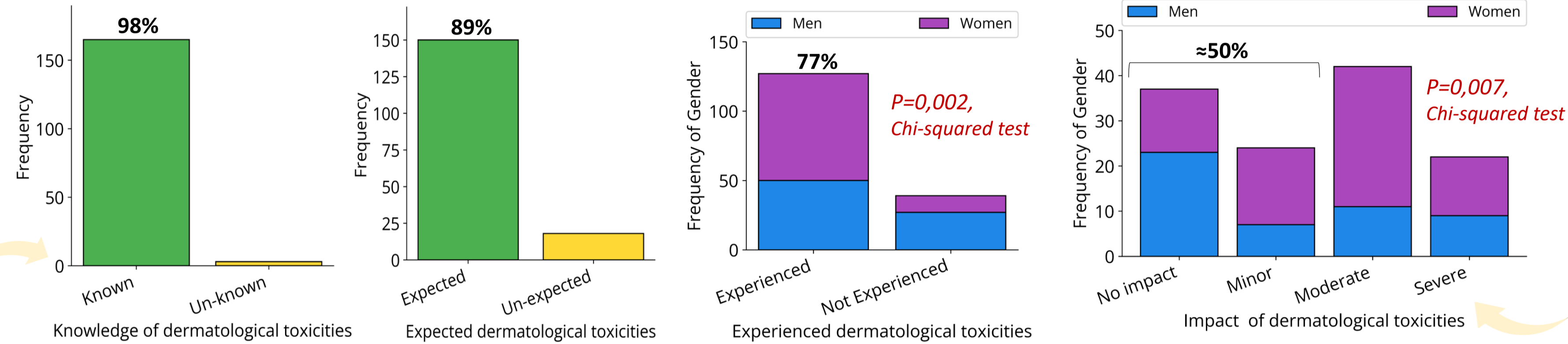
Our study suggests that women are more likely to suffer dermatological adverse events from cancer treatments. At this stage, however, it is not possible to conclude that women are actually more at risk of dermatological toxicities from this observational study based on patient self-reports. An objective and prospective clinical evaluation would be required to confirm this finding. Furthermore, we cannot exclude that our results are partly related to the societal impact on women of changes in their body image, as opposed to the ideal image of women on magazine covers. Despite this gender difference, access to dermocosmetic and aesthetic care is satisfactory for all patients, and not impacted by the precarity despite their cost.

[1] Bihan H, et al. Association between individual deprivation, glycemic control and diabetic complication - The EPICES score. Diabetes Care 28:2680-2685, 2005

Characteristics of patients (N=168)	N (%)
Gender	
Men	77 (46)
Women	91 (54)
Mean age (years)	65,4 ± 11,6
Age group (y, years)	
< 65 y	75 (45)
> 65 y	93 (55)
Cancer localization	
Digestive	30 (18)
Lung	30 (18)
Breast	30 (18)
Urological	25 (15)
Gynecological	24 (14)
Head and Neck	29 (17)
Stage	
Localized/locally advanced	45 (27)
Metastatic (1 st line)	56 (33)
Metastatic (2 nd line)	67 (40)
Precarity (n= 152)	
No	77 (46)
Yes	75 (45)
Unkown	16 (9)

In-hospital dermocosmetic care is offered to only 29% of patients, and more frequently to women with breast (p<0,001) or gynecological (p=0,004) cancer, but less often to patients in precarious conditions (p=0,011, multivariate analysis). Most of dermocosmetic and aesthetic care are provided by community pharmacy (86%). Dermocosmetic care is most often prescribed by the oncologist (42%), recommended by community pharmacists (31%) or on the patient's own initiative (29%).

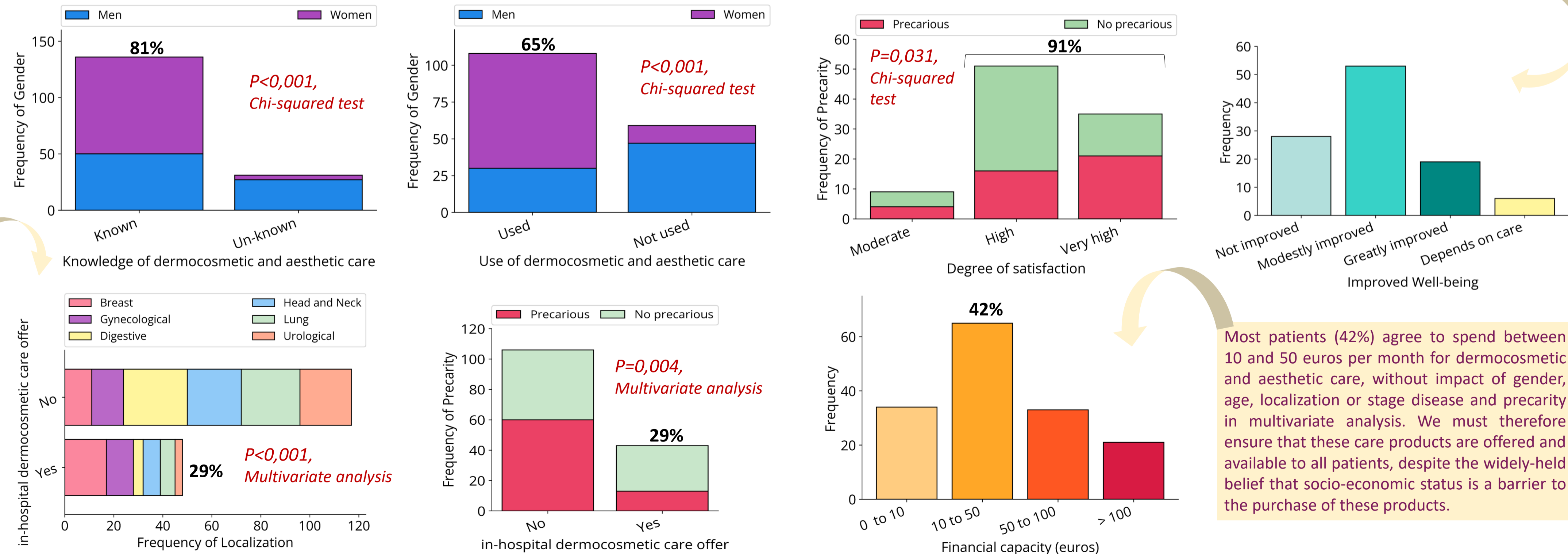
Results



Over 98% of patients are aware that anticancer drugs can induce dermatological adverse events. 89% believe that their current treatment may be responsible for these effects, mainly alopecia (80%), xerosis (57%) and nail toxicity (42%). 77% of patients, **more often women (p=0.002), have experienced** them, with no impact of age (p=0,898), precarity (p = 0,172), localization (p=0,324) or stage of disease (p=0,643).

Dermocosmetic and aesthetic care are **known by 81%** of patients, **used by 65%** of them, **mainly women (p<0,001)**, with a **high to very high level of satisfaction (91%)**, **higher in precarious patients (p=0,031)** and well-being perceived (67% of patients), with no impact of others factors in multivariate analysis (no significant impact of age, localization and stage disease).

No or little impact is observed for around 50% of patients, but was **more severe** for 18% of them and **in women (p=0,007)** with no impact of age (p=0,163), precarity (p = 0,671), localization (p=0,33) or stage of the disease (p=0,812).



Most patients (42%) agree to spend between 10 and 50 euros per month for dermocosmetic and aesthetic care, without impact of gender, age, localization or stage disease and precarity in multivariate analysis. We must therefore ensure that these care products are offered and available to all patients, despite the widely-held belief that socio-economic status is a barrier to the purchase of these products.