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Aljefri K, Muirhead C, Newbury-Birch D, Kaner E, Gilvarry E, Araujo-Soares V, Reynolds NJ, Hampton P. [Examining the prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorders \(AUD\) in patients with skin disease, a cross-sectional study](#). In: *45th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Dermatological Research*. 2015, Rotterdam, The Netherlands: Elsevier.

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**DOI link to article:**

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/jid.2015.269>

**Date deposited:**

07/01/2016

**Embargo release date:**

01 September 2016



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## **Examining the prevalence of Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) in patients with skin disease, a cross-sectional study**

**K Aljefri,<sup>1</sup> C Muirhead,<sup>2</sup> D Newbury-Birch,<sup>3</sup> E Kaner,<sup>2</sup> E Gilvarry,<sup>2</sup> V Araujo-Soares,<sup>2</sup> NJ Reynolds<sup>2</sup> and P Hampton<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *Dermatology, Newcastle NHS Trust, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom,*

<sup>2</sup> *Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom*

<sup>3</sup> *Teesside University, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom*

Although an association between excessive alcohol consumption and psoriasis has been identified, such a link is not established in other chronic inflammatory skin conditions. We examined the prevalence of alcohol use disorders (AUD) using the validated Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) in patients with different skin diseases. In this observational questionnaire single centre study, 609 patients were recruited in four inflammatory groups (psoriasis, eczema, lupus and other) and a reference group with non-inflammatory skin conditions. We used three validated screening tools: the alcohol use disorders identification test (AUDIT), hospital anxiety and depression score (HADS) and dermatology life quality index (DLQI). An AUDIT score of 8 defined an alcohol use disorder. 22.7% of our population had AUD. AUD were more prevalent in males and those with later date of birth. Patients with inflammatory skin conditions had a higher prevalence of AUD than the reference group, 24.5% vs. 14.3% respectively. In the primary analysis, the odds ratio (OR), (with 95% CI) for AUD among psoriasis patients relative to the control group was 2.69 (1.49–4.69) and adjusting for gender and age 1.65 (0.86–3.17). Exploratory analyses showed the OR for AUD in eczema patients relative to the reference group was 3.00 (1.69–5.33) and adjusting for gender and age 2.00 (1.03–3.85). The mean DLQI score was 10.29 (SD 7.57) in the eczema group and 7.71 (SD 6.73) in the psoriasis group. Our data support the previously known problem of AUD in patients with psoriasis using a validated measure, the AUDIT. For the first time we have shown that AUD are more prevalent in eczema patients comparing to a reference population. Despite controlling for age and gender the possibility of other confounders cannot be entirely excluded and further investigation is needed in larger populations in non-hospital settings to confirm these findings.