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## INTRODUCTION

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Internet is widely used by the patients to get medical information.

## METHODS

We performed an observational multicentric study in ResoVerneuil network to describe the characteristics of the HS patients who consult internet, and the impact on their medical comportment.

A questionnaire was filled by every patient consulting for HS: sociodemographic data, informations on internet use, eventual consequences on their health care use. The physician completed data on HS. We report here the preliminary results.

## RESULTS

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280 patients (183 women), mean age 33,8 years.

Mean age at beginning of HS 21,8 years, 11,6% had familial history of HS, 4% had spondyloarthritis, and 2.5% inflammatory bowel disease. Hurley stage was I in 35,6%, II in 45% and III in 11% (missing data for 8,4%).

54,2% of the patients had already had prolonged antibiotic treatment for HS, 86.5% surgery and 9.45% biologics.

22,5% lived in rural and 77.5% in urban environment. Highest academic degree was GCSE in 4%, vocational qualification in 23%, bachelor in 25%, tertiary study in 37%, others in 11%.

98.2% had access to internet at home and 78,5 % used it during the last year to get information about HS.

**Reasons were:** better understanding of HS 69 %, information about treatments in general 52%, information about prescribed treatment 18 %, looking for a physician 20,4 %, discuss with other patients with HS 14,2 %. Patients declared that the information found on internet modify their way to take care of HS in 37,1%, leading to more consultations in 23 %, less consultations in 8,7%. They thought information found on internet was credible in 72,7%. They were in majority not able to recall the websites they consulted.

## CONCLUSION

Three quarters of HS patients use internet to gather information about their disease and the treatments. Further analysis will be performed to identify specific profile of patients.