INTRODUCTION

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

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.