Psychological support for HS: semi-directive interview to assess psychological trait and psychosomatic aspects

Ermina OFIDO, Nathalie DUMET, Philippe GUILLEM
Clinique du Val d’Ouest, Lyon; RésoVerneuil, Paris; Groupe de Recherche en Proctologie of the Société Nationale Francaise de ColoProctologie, Paris, France

1. Background

Previous results from retrospective assessment of psychological charts suggest a link between:
- specific adverse life events
- disease occurrence & development of personality traits

2. The purpose of this research

- Check these assertions by prospectively recording and analyzing psychological interviews of HS patients
- Study if patients have an operative thought or & alexithymia

> Often found in psychosomatic disorders, characterized by their inability to put emotions in words and their difficulty to establish links between significant lived events & symptoms of the disease

3. Methods

- psychological support with a research component
- 5 ♀ with HS
- 21-39 yrs
- five 45 - 60 min-long interviews
- including questioning about biographical data & disease occurrence

4. Results

All patients:
- have been sexually touched &/ or abused (average age: 13 yrs)
- all experiences separation just before disease occurrence
- 4/5 also experienced their first sexual intercourses at that time
- an operative thought
- separation experience
- anxiety
- dependance on others
- anguish of death
- bulimia / overeating

5. Conclusion

Using the bias of a psychopathological approach / psychosomatic approach

- This pilot observational study recalls that skin is a way to establish and receive contacts with the outside world
- It suggests HS as a contact disease, occurring in response to hazardous & or broken contacts

6. Perspectives

- Reproduce the same research on males?
- To a larger population?