

Michele Ramien¹ Marketa Saint Aroman² Juliette Murriss³ Stéphanie Merhand⁵ Charles Taieb⁴ Marie-Aleth Richard⁶

1 University of Calgary; Department of Dermatology 2 Pierre Fabre; Patient centricity Dpt; Medical Direction

3 Pierre Fabre, Biostatistician – RWE&Datas; 4 EMMA; Patients Priority, 5 France 3A, Association de patients, France ; 6 Dermatology; University Hospital of La Timone

INTRODUCTION

Chronic hand eczema [CHE] mainly affects adults because it is often caused and/or aggravated by household or professional products. CHE is particularly disabling in everyday life, especially in social, professional, leisure or romantic contexts. It is often accompanied by pruritus or pain, profoundly altering the quality of life.

MATERIAL & METHODS

Population-based study using a representative sample of the general population aged ≥ 18 years from six countries (Canada, China, Italy, Spain, Germany, and France). All participants were asked to fill in a digital structured questionnaire. We inquired about the presence of skin disease and sites affected

RESULTS

A total of 13,138 adult participants responded to the questionnaire (2,011 Canadian, 3,050 Chinese, 2,000 French, 2,000 Italian, 2,040 Spanish and 2,037 German). Among the respondents, 26,2% (n=3,450) reported suffering from skin diseases, including chronic hand eczema [ECH] (3.2%; n=422).and 40% also endorsed suffering from atopic dermatitis/eczema..

We identified 138 individuals who reported exclusive CHE over the last 12 months

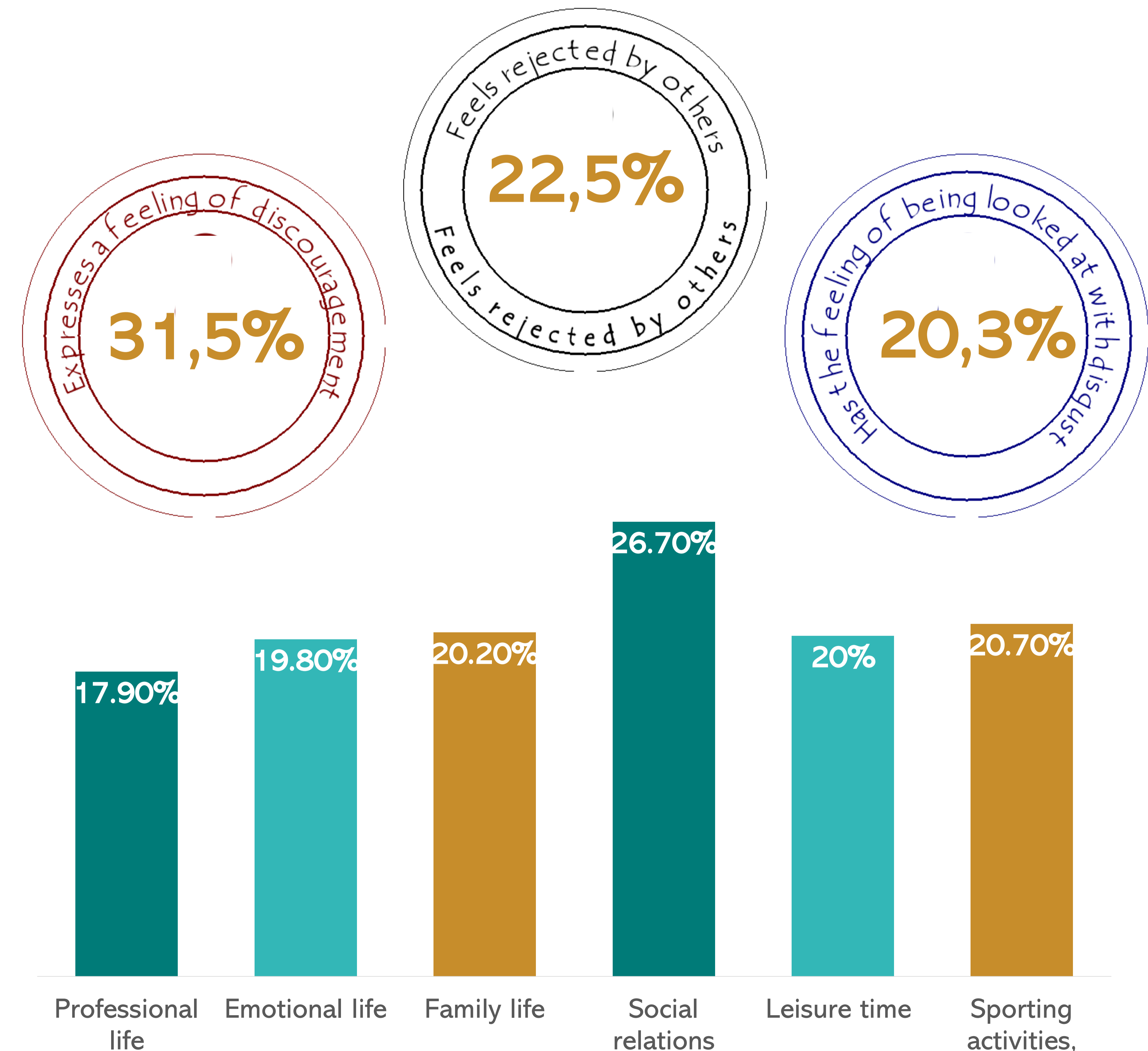
One hundred percent of the patients with CHE reported dermatosis of the hands. Fifty-four percent were men; the average age of the latter was 37.5 ± 13.7 , and 28% reported suffering from chronic hand eczema since youth. Among them, almost one in two (40.6%) reported difficulties at school due to their hand condition. For 41.2% it was mockery, and for 30.3% it was ostracism.

Meanwhile, 17.9%, 19.8%, 20.2%, 26.7%, 20% and 20.7% of the respondents stated that their hand injury was a handicap in their professional life, emotional life, family life, social relations, leisure time and sporting activities, respectively.

The handicap was primarily aesthetic for almost one subject out of two and functional for one subject out of three. 15.9% reported difficulty using a smartphone, and 15.9% reported difficulty with everyday activities. 29.8 percent thought that their personal life would have been different in the absence of their hand injury (31.6% for their professional life), and 26.1% reported trying to hide the condition (44.2% using gloves and 35.4 using clothing). 19.4 percent reported that their sex life was affected, and 25.4% reported that the condition caused difficulties in their relationship.

In terms of stigma, 22.5% of people with chronic hand eczema felt rejected, 20.3% felt looked down upon with disgust, and 31.9% expressed a feeling of discouragement. 47.8 percent reported consulting a health professional (57.6% a dermatologist, 31.8% a GP, and 3.0% a pharmacist).

19.6 percent admitted to using alternative and complementary medicine. In this case, 33.3% preferred essential oils 22% preferred herbal medicine, and 14.8% preferred homeopathy.



DISCUSSION

Our study shows in a sufficiently robust group that the impact in terms of quality of life and daily burden is far from negligible. The fact that 20% turned to alternative and complementary medicine underlines the need for improved management.