

## Assessing the Impact of Rosacea on Patients: Food for Thought

The impact of rosacea on a patient's life may be proportionate to disease severity, but don't make any assumptions.

Unlike some other cutaneous diseases that patients can hide under clothing, rosacea is a highly visible disease. As such, the redness and erythema that characterize the disease are expected to and have been reported to affect patients' self-perceptions and influence their quality of life. Here's what some recent data show about the impact of rosacea on affected patients.

### Patient Interactions

In a recent survey of rosacea patients conducted by the National Rosacea Society and published in *Rosacea Reviews*, 660 patients described their experience of the disease. A full 86 percent of respondents with severe rosacea reported that the condition had inhibited their social lives. Among those with moderate rosacea, about 67 percent said they were similarly affected. This is compared to 38 percent of those with mild disease.

Nearly three quarters (74 percent) of patients with severe rosacea said that they had avoided public contact or even canceled a social engagement due to their facial appearance. Close to two-thirds of patients with severe disease (65 percent) said that rosacea made it difficult for them to establish new relationships.

Among patients with moderate rosacea, 42 percent said they had cancelled social engagements because of their rosacea, compared to 18 percent of those with mild disease. Similar percentages of patients in each group (44 percent of

those with moderate disease and 19 percent of those with mild disease) said that rosacea negatively impacted their ability to establish new relationships.

Patients in all groups reported that they had been subject to stares, comments, or jokes as a result of rosacea. The percentages of patients reporting such experiences were 73 percent for severely affected patients, 63 percent for those with moderate rosacea, and 37 percent for patients with mild rosacea.

### Patient Self-Concept

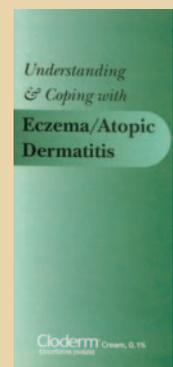
Interestingly, a small study supported by a grant from the NRS and published this year in *Dermatology Nursing*

found no statistically significant differences in self-concept between a group of 27 rosacea patients and a group of 17 controls (based on gross scores). All participants completed the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale as well as a survey about rosacea.

Study authors noted, however, that there appeared to be a pattern evident in rosacea patient responses that was consistent with expectations. Self-concept scores decreased as the severity of rosacea increased. The authors further speculate that a larger study involving more patients might better detect a negative correlation between rosacea and patient self-concept. 

## New in Your Practice

**Eczema Education.** Patients with chronic inflammatory skin disorders seeking help and more information about their condition now have somewhere to turn. Coria Laboratories, Ltd. recently released a booklet for patients suffering from eczema and atopic dermatitis entitled, "Understanding and Coping with Eczema/Atopic Dermatitis." The booklet explains the skin condition in words and pictures and offers tips disease management. It is available free of charge to health professionals by calling toll-free 866-819-9007.



**Moving Right Along.** There may be a new novel compound on the horizon for the treatment of acne. Collagenex Pharmaceuticals recently announced that it has initiated a Phase II, double blinded, placebo-controlled dose-finding clinical trial designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Incyclinide, formerly known as COL-3. The study will include 300 patients with moderate to severe acne and evaluate three dosage strengths of incyclinide and a placebo over a 12-week period. Results are expected in the fourth quarter of 2006.