

Examining the Race-Specific Prevalence of Hidradenitis Suppurativa at a Large Academic Center; Results From a Retrospective Chart Review

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Introduction

- Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic, inflammatory, debilitating disease of unknown etiology¹
- During acute exacerbations of HS, patients may suffer from malodorous discharge that leads to embarrassment and social stigma, which contribute to low self-worth.
- Pain associated with HS lesions can be intense and chronic; this is the most significant factor contributing to impaired quality of life among patients²
- HS can occur in people of all ethnicities and ages and affects approximately 0.3-4% of the United States³
- It has been suggested that HS may be more common among women, African-Americans, and young adults, though definitive epidemiological information is limited¹

Methods

- We conducted a retrospective review of HS patients seen at the University of Cincinnati, Department of Dermatology between July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015.
- This data was analyzed to determine the prevalence of HS at our clinic, sorted by race.
- County-specific information regarding race was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- This information was compared to current literature regarding the prevalence of HS in the United States, and race prevalence of HS.

Figures & Tables

Table I. Distribution of HS Patients, by race

Variable	All Patients % (n)	HS Patients % (n)
African American	12.8 (11,276)	52.5 (148)
Caucasian	76.8 (67,655)	43.7 (124)
Other	3.6 (3,194)	3.9 (11)
Total	100 (88,120)	32 (284)

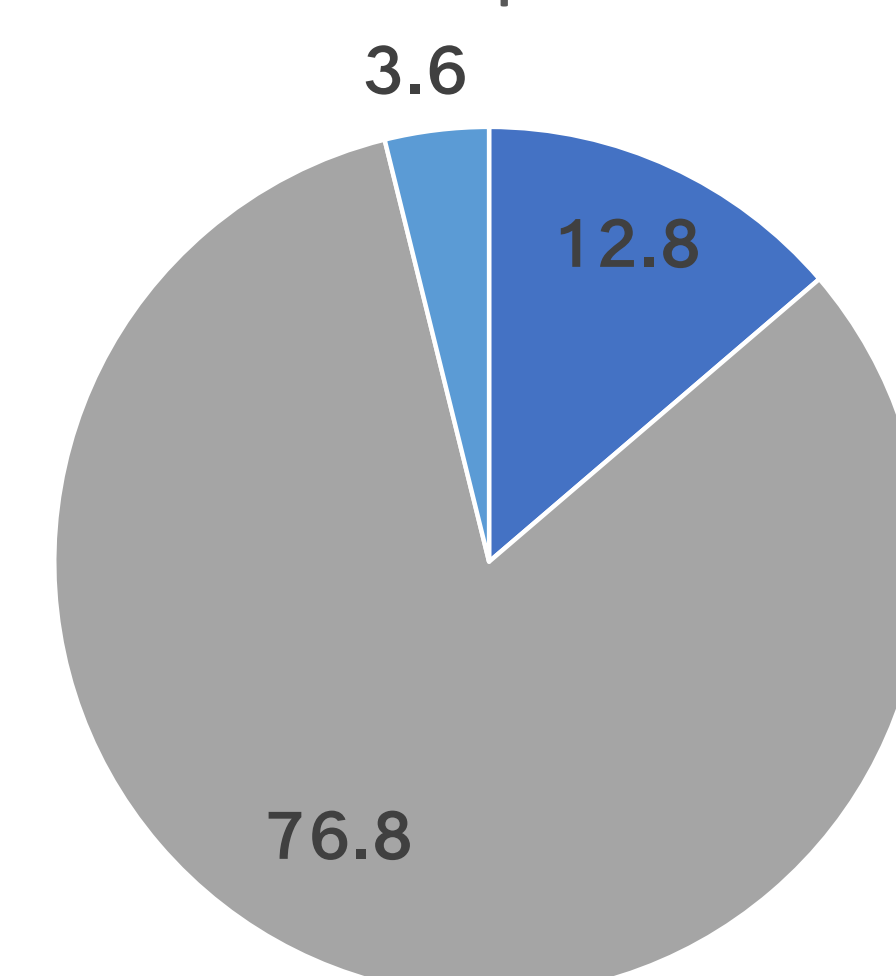
Results

- In total, HS patients comprised 0.32% (n=284) of our dermatology clinic patient population.
 - Our findings correlate closely to current literature reporting the prevalence of HS as 0.3-4% in industrialized countries.³
 - The US Census Bureau data for 2015 for Hamilton County, Ohio, indicates that the population of Hamilton County is 26.1% African-American, 69.0% Caucasian, and 4.9% "other."⁷
- Patients seen at our clinic for all diagnoses were 12.8% African-American, 76.8% Caucasian, and 3.6% "other" (Table 1).
- Among HS patients, 52.5% were African-American, 43.7% were Caucasian, and 3.9% "other" (Table 1).
- We compared the prevalence of African-American patients with HS and Caucasian patients with HS via chi square test.
 - At our center, 1.3% of African-American patients were seen for HS, compared to 0.18% of Caucasian patients; this difference was significant (p<0.05).

Figures & Tables

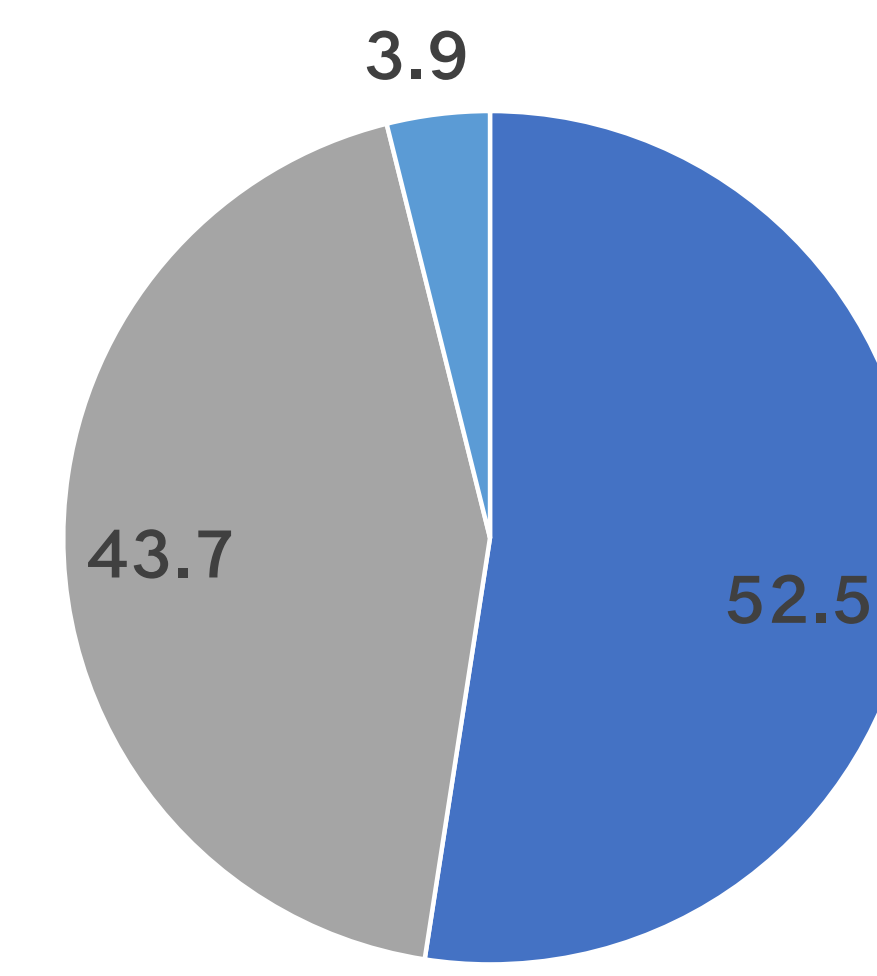
Figures I & II. Distribution of Study Participants, By Race

Figure I. Distribution of Total Clinic Population



■ African American
■ Caucasian
■ Other

Figure II. Distribution of HS Clinic Population



■ African American
■ Caucasian
■ Other

Discussion

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Limitations

- The overall prevalence of HS at our clinic may also be underestimated, as HS often goes unrecognized or misdiagnosed⁵
- In addition, our study findings may not be generalizable to the general population because our study data is limited to a single academic center.
- A large, population-based study across the United States is needed to better assess the associations between ethnicity and HS.
- Examining this patient population has the potential to improve our understanding of HS pathophysiology and will enable clinicians to better manage patients with this disease.

References

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