

Quality of Life in Dermatology

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Abstract

Quality of life (QoL), as defined by the World Health Organization, includes individuals' perceptions of their life circumstances within their cultural and value systems including their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns.

Evaluating QoL is important for understanding the nonclinical aspects of diseases, identifying functional and psychological limitations, and choosing treatment during the early stage of the disease. It also contributes to improve the doctor–patient relationship.

The skin, being the interface with the environment, serves as a means of

communication. Skin diseases can also affect self-image and social relationships, especially during vulnerable stages like childhood and adolescence.

Dermatologic conditions often affect patients physically, emotionally, and functionally. Identifying the impact of skin conditions, quantifying the burden, and using this information to improve patients' well-being are important objectives in clinical dermatology. Various scales and indices have been developed to measure QoL in children and adolescents with skin diseases. QoL is particularly important in dermatology due to the field's focus on improving skin-related

QoL. Skin conditions often manifest in a multidimensional picture, affecting emotional states, social interaction, symptoms, and functional impairment.

Quantifying the quality-of-life impact of skin conditions is a relatively recent effort, emerging from the movement across medical science to inform intervention outcomes.

Key words: Quality of life, holistic, measure, skin disease, scales, outcomes