

ABSTRACT

Background: The topical steroid withdrawal (syndrome) or red skin syndrome is a possible topical steroid treatment complication. The bachelor's thesis looks up into patients on topical steroid dependency criteria by particularly atopic dermatitis patients treated with topical steroids. It also deals with the topical steroid withdrawal itself.

Aims: The main aim is to get to know whether some difficulties and manifestations of the long-term-topical-steroid treated patients can be defined similarly like the dependency syndrome.

Methods: The first method used for the research was quantitative, i.e. an anonymous online questionnaire survey among the trait carriers which included ten DSM-5 dependency criteria questions. In the research sample, there were approximately 900 potential participants (members of a Facebook group that gathers Czech and Slovak people with RSS). 105 respondents participated.

The second method was qualitative – 3 case studies (2 women, 1 man, trait carriers and the sampling was random) of participants whom the medical history were taken from and semi-structured interview were recorded. The interview consisted of some areas of interest and MKN-10 (ICD-10) dependency criteria questions.

Results: The degree of fulfillment of the dependency criteria for the online questionnaire according to DSM-5 was expressed in percentage: 78.85%. For two of the three participants in the semi-structured interviews, it was possible to consider expressing the diagnosis Topical Steroid Dependency Syndrome. In the case of the third participant, it was possible to consider the diagnosis Topical Steroid Withdrawal.

Conclusion and recommendation: The study has shown that it was possible to develop an addiction to topical steroids. Correct, timely and appropriate education of patients who use topical steroid is important for its prevention.

Key words: atopic dermatitis, corticosteroids, erythrodermia, red skin syndrome, topical steroid withdrawal, topical steroid addiction, topical steroid allergy