Cardiovascular disease risk in patients with psoriasis: a qualitative study

P.A. Nelson\(^1\), L. Cordingley\(^{1,2}\), C.E.M. Griffiths \(^{1,3}\), C. Keyworth\(^1\), C.A. Chew-Graham\(^4\)

**Affiliations**
\(^1\)Manchester Centre for Dermatology Research, Institute of Inflammation and Repair, University of Manchester, \(^2\)Manchester Centre for Health Psychology, University of Manchester, \(^3\)Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester, \(^4\)Research Institute, Primary Care and Health Sciences, Keele University

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**BACKGROUND:** IMPACT aims to better understand the association between psoriasis and co-morbidity.

**AIMS:** This qualitative study will explore the acceptability of cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factor screening for patients with psoriasis and for practitioners, and identify factors in the consultation that aid or impede risk perception and enhance motivation to engage in lifestyle behaviours to minimise risk.

**DESIGN:** Nested qualitative study of primary care CVD risk screening and follow-up consultations. Patient interviews will explore risk perception, intentions to reduce risk, perceived ability to undertake lifestyle changes and support needed. Practitioner interviews will explore views of delivering risk information, eliciting patients’ understanding and detecting/addressing distress and concerns.

**METHODS:** Principles of Framework Analysis will be used to identify similarities and differences within and across both datasets. Six general practices in NW England, including small and large practices in deprived and affluent areas.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Thirty people with psoriasis who have undergone CVD risk screening and/or follow-up stratified by age/sex (10 under 30 years old; 10 aged 30-55 and 10 over 55). Fifteen primary care practitioners involved in CVD risk screening and/or follow-up.

**RESULTS:** Analysis will enable understanding of the structure/processes involved in risk perception, particularly where the evidence for increased risk is currently unknown, as well as identification of those communication techniques which aid patient understanding of risk and promote positive behaviour changes.

**CONCLUSION:** Results will inform later stages of the IMPACT Programme which aims to use best available knowledge to develop responsive services to improve the care of people with psoriasis.