Cardiovascular risk screening in people with psoriasis

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BACKGROUND: Accumulating evidence indicates that moderate/severe psoriasis is associated with cardiovascular disease (CVD). However it is unclear as to whether other risk factors such as obesity and physical inactivity contribute to a reported increase in CVD events in people with psoriasis.

OBJECTIVES:
a) To establish the prevalence of traditional CVD risk factors in a group of primary care patients with psoriasis and; investigate the feasibility of screening this group for CVD risk in primary care.

b) To compare levels of arterial stiffness as measured by pulse wave velocity (PWV) in people with and without psoriasis and to relate PWV to psoriasis severity in those with psoriasis.

SETTING: 5-6 collaborating general practices across 2 PCTs in both deprived and affluent areas.

PARTICIPANTS: People with psoriasis over the age of 18 years stratified by gender and age (over and under 40 years).

METHODS: 320 people with psoriasis will undergo CVD risk assessment in their general practice. Data will be collected on traditional and non-traditional risk factors, medical history and self-assessed psoriasis severity with a subgroup undergoing PWV and skin assessments. Data are being collected between June 2012 and April 2013.

RESULTS: Risk scores will be calculated and used to compare the prevalence of subjects who have, for example a 20% risk of a CVD event, in the psoriasis groups with national control data. Further analysis will assess whether psoriasis severity is related to arterial stiffness.

CONCLUSION: Findings from this study will inform the future development of CVD screening for people with psoriasis.