

Appendix S1

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL AND METHODS

Development of the questionnaire

The questionnaire was developed at the Technical University of Munich and by a team of three epidemiologists and one dermatologist; pre-tested by three researchers and three individuals with psoriasis; and subsequently adapted to their comments. In order to minimize dropouts due to too excessive questioning on sexuality, and especially to reach unbiased qualitative reasons for the avoidance of sexual contact in the context of psoriasis, the usage of a non-validated, one-question item was chosen to determine avoidance of sexual avoidance due to psoriasis ('Do you avoid sexual contact due to your psoriasis?').

General information

Baseline characteristics of all participants were collected, which included age, sex, treating physician (general practitioner, dermatologist, rheumatologist, no current treatment), duration of psoriasis, and subjective disease severity at the time point of study participation, as well as subjective overall disease severity. Overall severity did not ask for participant's worst condition since onset of psoriasis, but for the subjective general severity over a

longer time span. The term was not specified in order to leave the interpretation of this multi-dimensional construct up to the respondent, which includes visible manifestations and also quality of life aspects. Furthermore, the presence of genital involvement was measured using the question 'Is your genital area currently affected by psoriasis?'. We did not specify whether only genitals, genital and anal area, or anal area as well as groin area were affected, but left it to the interpretation of the participant.

Intimacy and avoidance of sexual contact

Furthermore, participants were provided with a questionnaire on intimacy including questions like "Do you feel pain due to your psoriasis during sexual activities? (Always–Never; 5-point scale)," or "Do you think that your psoriasis has influenced your partner search or your choice of partner?" (yes, a lot–no, 4-point scale). Participants were also asked to declare whether they avoided sexual contact since onset of psoriasis (Always–Never; 5-point scale). If they reported this as at least "sometimes," they were asked to provide a reason or reasons as free text answers on a voluntary basis. For the regression analysis, these variables were dichotomized with 'never' resulting in 'no,' and 'seldom' to 'always' resulting in 'yes'. While this might have led to a loss of information, the aim of this approach was to facilitate statistical analysis, and improve clarity and understandability of the results.