

Psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory condition that affects the regeneration of skin cells. Psoriasis affects an estimated 2-3% of the population, or approximately one million Canadians. An estimated 1 in 3 people with psoriasis will develop psoriatic arthritis, a chronic type of inflammatory arthritis that can be debilitating without timely and appropriate care. Having psoriasis increases one's risks of other serious health conditions including depression, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and gastrointestinal disease.

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Types

Plaque psoriasis is the most common form of psoriasis impacting about 90% of patients. Other forms of psoriasis include guttate psoriasis, pustular psoriasis, inverse psoriasis, and erythrodermic psoriasis.

Causes

Although the exact cause of psoriasis is yet to be found, researchers believe a combination of genetic, environmental, and immune factors may be involved.

Impact on the Patient's Quality of Life

For many, symptoms of psoriasis can be manageable. For others, and at different points of one's experience, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis can affect every aspect of a person's life, including their ability to work and maintain relationships.

Treatment and Care of Condition

People living with psoriasis may need access to different types of treatment over the course of their lives. These include topical treatment, phototherapy, and systemic drugs, including biologics/biosimilars. Even when they find a treatment that works, people may experience medication fatigue, including medications failing to work after a period of time or the inability to tolerate a medication or formulation with the need to change to another. Because our immune systems are sophisticated, they can begin to "override" or "outwit" treatments that have been effective. Often people live with the fear that their options will run out. As such, people with psoriasis need access to robust tailored treatment options throughout the course of their lives.



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