

Validation of Dermaphot[®] for the assessment of steroid-induced skin atrophy

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Dear Editor,

We are very pleased that our manuscript [1] was read with great interest. Dermatoscopy is indeed not brand new and publications including of Vasquez-Lopez and Marghoob showed the value of this method in daily practice treating patients with psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. However, validation of a tool Dermatophot Score (dermatoscope device with fixed picture capture) in multicenter placebo-controlled trial is new. This trial was approved by IRB and performed according to GCP and ICH guideline, which is the only way to proof the value of this method. Sub-study published by Aschoff et al. was done with the same score and was part of a multicenter trial, where the main criticism was that this score was not validated.

Frosch score is an excellent score and was the basis of Dermatophot score also. We mentioned in our publication

that Dermatophot score is a modified Frosch score. Beside similarities, we disagree that terminology “Frosch score” should be used. Dermatophot score is performed with fixed magnification, standardized dermatoscope (Delta from Heine Optotechnik) and photographic equipment (Heine Optotechnik). Independently how we named it is newly validated.

References

1. Hofmann M, Salgo R, Aschoff R, Luger TA, Meurer M, Brautigam M, Thaci D (2013) Validation of Dermaphot[®] for the assessment of steroid-induced skin atrophy. Arch Dermatol Res 305:215–221

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