INTRODUCTION

Hyperhidrosis is a medical condition characterized by excessive sweating beyond what is physiologically required to maintain normal thermoregulation. It is classified as either primary or secondary.

Primary hyperhidrosis is idiopathic and thought to result from hyperactivity of the sympathetic nervous system. It typically involves a specific body area (e.g., forehead, palms, soles, intertriginous regions), and the severity of hyperhidrosis can range from mild dampness to severe dripping. It is important to note that a general component may be involved in some cases.

Secondary hyperhidrosis results from an underlying medical condition or use of prescription medications and implicates hyperhidrosis as a comorbidity. Data have suggested that a genetic component may be involved in some cases.

METHODS

Eligible records from 1998 to 2017 were identified using PubMed and Scopus databases and applying PICO literature (Patient: patients with hyperhidrosis; Intervention: management options, diagnosis, and treatment; Comparison: other techniques; Outcome: health-related quality of life). A detailed search strategy is provided in the Appendix.

• PubMed search included in 169 articles (2000/01/01: 2017/02/01), of which 60 required full-text review, of which 11 required full-text review.

RESULTS

Study Characteristics and Findings: Epidemiology

Epidemiological studies conducted in this population vary substantially in their methodology, and consequently, have reported a wide range of prevalence estimates.

Table 1 Specific Search Terms Utilized in PubMed and Scopus

Table 2 Prevalence of Hyperhidrosis in the United States by Setting

Table 3 Prevalence of Hyperhidrosis in the United States by Setting

Table 4 Impact of Age on Self-Reported Hyperhidrosis Prevalence

CONCLUSIONS

The proportion of those reporting the highest levels of hyperhidrosis severity (as assessed by the HDSS) among patients with primary hyperhidrosis was higher among women. The proportion ranged from 38% to 51% among women and men, respectively. The proportion of those reporting the highest levels of hyperhidrosis severity among patients with primary hyperhidrosis was 38% in men and 51% in women. The proportion of those reporting the highest levels of hyperhidrosis severity among patients with primary hyperhidrosis was 38% in men and 51% in women.

Figure 1 Impact of Hyperhidrosis on Components of Daily Life

Figure 2 Impact of Hyperhidrosis on Components of Daily Life

• Despite the level of burden associated with hyperhidrosis, it is notable that very few patients did not observe their sweating as interfering with daily activities.

Figure 3 Impact of Hyperhidrosis on Components of Daily Life

• Due to the lack of guidance for clinical management of primary hyperhidrosis, it is essential that future studies be designed to better characterize this condition.

LIMITATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

• Eliciting consensus among potential contributors is often difficult due to variance across different medical specialties, which can also lead to variation in the use of terminology and definitions.

• Although many studies have been conducted, these studies have not been consistently conducted at the same time points.

• The proportion of primary hyperhidrosis among patients reporting the highest levels of hyperhidrosis severity was 38% in men and 51% in women. The proportion of those reporting the highest levels of hyperhidrosis severity among patients with primary hyperhidrosis was 38% in men and 51% in women.

• Despite the level of burden associated with hyperhidrosis, it is notable that very few patients did not observe their sweating as interfering with daily activities.