

Editorial

Clear reporting of study design in a trial on patient education in psoriasis

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Dear editor,

With great interest, we read the publication *„The effect of self-management education on the quality of life and severity of the disease in patients with severe psoriasis: A non-randomized clinical trial“* by the authors Tahereh Najafi-Ghezeljeh, Kobra Soltandehghan and Agha-Fatemeh Hosseini (1). As active researchers in the areas of psoriasis and self-management we welcome studies in these areas and congratulate the authors on successfully conducting this study.

We would like to invite the authors to clarify the somewhat conflicting reporting concerning study design. It is clearly stated in the title that this is *„A non-randomized trial“* and in the methods section we read: *„The patients were assigned into the control and intervention groups using simple randomization. Accordingly, the patients hospitalized in the first and second half of each month were recruited in the intervention and control groups, respectively“* (1). Upon investigation of the Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials we discover that *“This study is a randomized clinical trial and single blind research with a control group [...]”* (2), unfortunately the description of the randomization method had been left blank. We regret that the peer review process of Nursing Practice Today did not lead to a clarification of the study design. This is of particular importance for systematic reviewers, because studies need to be

assessed for risk of bias applying the correct assessment instrument (3-4).

References

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