

Comment on “A cross sectional study of noninfectious – Nonvenereal genital dermatoses among adult males at the tertiary care hospital in South Gujarat”

Dear Editor,

The original article “A cross-sectional study of noninfectious – nonvenereal genital dermatoses among adult males at the tertiary care hospital in South Gujarat” published in the *Indian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS*, is a meaningful addition to the existing literature.^[1] The article aimed to identify the clinical pattern and frequency of noninfectious nonvenereal genital dermatoses.^[1] As the authors have justified the lack of available literature on the pattern of these diseases both among males and females, it becomes the need of the hour.^[1] Even though it was not a study objective, I feel the study would have meant more had the authors also aimed

to study the association between demographic attributes and distribution of the diseases.

Following a careful reading of the article, I share my insights and concerns to add to the robustness of the study’s internal and external validity. The methodology section is regarded as the core of any original article, encompassing study design, duration, setting, study population, inclusion and exclusion criteria, sample size, sampling methods, study variables, study tool and its validation, data collection, ethical guidelines, and statistical methods.^[2] To begin with, the authors have not mentioned the study design in both the abstract and the main text, but in the absence of any intervention and with no follow-up component, this was a cross-sectional descriptive study.^[2] The process of desk review to reach the sample size is not a scientifically rigorous approach but merely an approximation. The correct approach would have been through a statistical formula taking into account prevalence (from a previous study), desired level of precision, confidence interval, and power of the study.^[3] In case, the authors are doing a novel work, the prevalence in the current study can be taken as 50%.

The authors mentioned that they used nonprobability purposive sampling, but I think that they used a combination of convenience and purposive sampling.^[4] The authors recorded various study variables, but what was used has not been mentioned – pro forma/questionnaire/schedule.^[1] It is also essential to record who designed it, how it was designed, and whether it was validated

and pilot-tested.^[5] It has been mentioned that the authors performed relevant investigations, it would have been ideal to mention the name of these investigations, as it is always expected that the methodology section should be self-explanatory.^[1] The approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee is missing in the methodology, and because it is a sensitive topic, it should have been mentioned.^[1] The discussion section fails to do justice, as there is no “discuss” component, rather the authors have just mentioned their findings and results of other studies.^[1] Ideally, a discussion section must discuss why the authors got similar or contrasting results when compared with other studies by citing probable reasons, and this is missing in the present study.^[6]

To summarize, the current study analyzed one of the less researched domains of noninfectious and nonvenereal dermatoses. However, the process of determination of sample size, sampling method, and data collection instrument have not been elaborated well, which is crucial for a valid study.

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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