

# Ethnicity and Medical Photographs: Patient perceptions of medical photography of dermatological conditions

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## Introduction

- Dermatology is a visual specialty, and images of dermatological conditions are important in the education of future clinicians
- However, most images of dermatological conditions in textbooks are of Caucasian skin (1-5)
- This results in an incomplete picture of dermatological conditions which is likely to impact diagnostic competencies when conditions present on skin of colour

## Aim

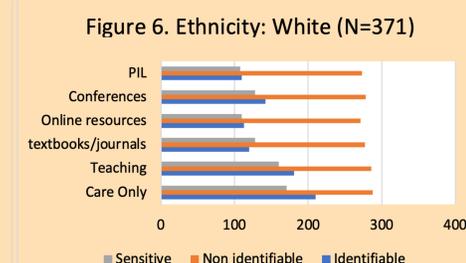
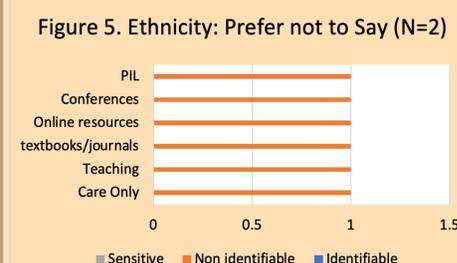
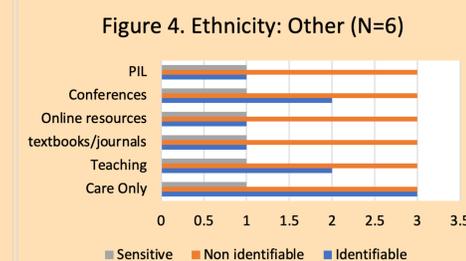
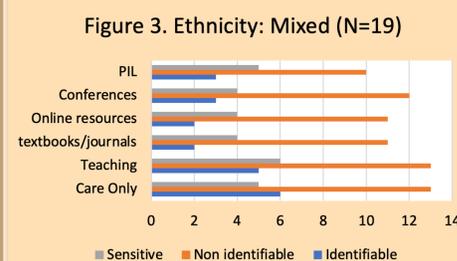
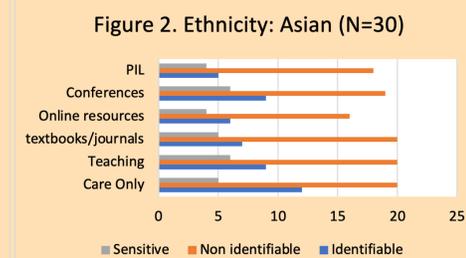
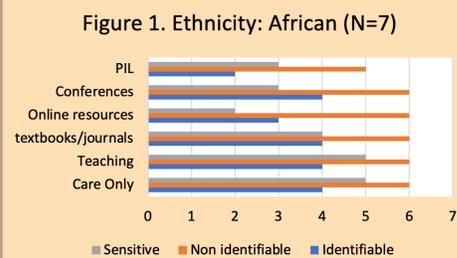
- To determine if patients' perceptions of medical photography used for educational purposes was a contributing factor to the disparity between representation of skin of colour in dermatological textbooks

## Methods

- Ethical approval obtained (SMREC 22/09)
- Convenience sampling was used to recruit participants from patient support groups and charities listed on the British Association of Dermatologists' website. Eligible participants were  $\geq 18$  and had a dermatological condition diagnosed by a healthcare professional
- An anonymised questionnaire was used to collect data
- Apart from demographics, including ethnicity categories based on the United Kingdom Census, questions included diagnosis and views on images being used for various purposes and whether participants have ever been asked by a medical professional to have photographs taken for any of the listed purposes
- Participants were asked to express their opinions on photographs for: identifiable non-identifiable, and sensitive (e.g. genitalia, buttocks, breast) regions of the body

## Results

- 434 responses were analysed
- 353 participants identified as female, 74 as male, 5 as other and 2 preferred not to say
- 371 participants identified as White, 7 as African, Caribbean or Black British, 30 as Asian or Asian British, 19 Mixed or Multiple Ethnic groups, 2 Prefer not to say, and 5 as Other
- Figures 1-6 demonstrate the majority of participants from all ethnic groups were willing to take and share photographs of their dermatological condition



## Results cont.

- For all ethnicities, across all categories, far more participants agreed to have photographs of unidentifiable regions as opposed to identifiable or sensitive regions. However less than half the respondents were asked to have photographs taken
- Only 139/434 participants (32%) had been asked to have their photograph taken for any reason
- 33% (123/371) 33% of participants of White ethnicity and 27% (17/63) of all ethnicities other than White were asked to have their photographs taken. The difference was not statistically significant ( $p=0.33$ )
- As a result, it can be concluded that patient ethnicity has no significant impact on patient perceptions of medical photography of their dermatological conditions and therefore is not a leading cause in the inadequate representation of skin of colour in medical resources
- Further research is required in this area to test if these results are reproducible

## References

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