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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CME Outfitters Presents Findings at National Dermatology Meeting Showing Medical Simulation Platform Improved Educational Outcome in Psoriasis

CME Outfitters presented poster at Maui Derm for Dermatologists 2017 Meeting showing improved educational outcomes in psoriasis via medical simulation.

BETHESDA, Maryland (March 31, 2017) – CME Outfitters (CMEO), a leading accredited provider in continuing medical education, presented findings from two activities on psoriasis demonstrating the success of incorporating online medical simulation into educational activities at the 2017 Maui Derm for Dermatologists Meeting. This conference, held at the Grand Wailea Hotel in Maui from March 20-24th, hosted dermatologists from around the country.

In the poster presentation, CMEO demonstrated its success in educating dermatologists using an innovative and engaging format via online medical simulation. “Research has shown gaps among dermatologists in best practices for screening patients with psoriasis for comorbidities and psoriatic arthritis,” said Jan Perez, managing partner at CMEO. “We identified practice gaps in the treatment of psoriasis in alignment with treatment guidelines. Education is key to narrowing or eliminating those gaps, but not all educational formats are equally effective,” she said.

In an effort to make education more engaging and match real-life experiences with clinical decision-making, CMEO incorporated online medical simulations in two activities geared toward assisting clinicians in achieving best practices related to screening for comorbidities in psoriasis (e.g., psoriatic arthritis, cardiovascular disorders) as well as counseling and treating patients with psoriasis. Both simulations consisted of online, narrative, competency-based, branch-logic patient simulations featuring media elements such as video clips and links to resources. These simulation activities assisted in educating dermatologists on two key issues: screening for psoriatic arthritis and cardiovascular risk factors in patients with psoriasis and implementing treatment according to treatment guidelines. Participants were required to make decisions at key steps/branches in the activity and received feedback on their choices at each step.

Assessment of improvements in knowledge, confidence, and performance were sent to participants three months following the activity, as well as to a group of matched nonparticipant controls. Over 2,900 clinicians participated in the activity, representing nearly 33,000 patients with psoriasis. After three months, participants significantly outperformed controls on 5 questions assessing knowledge related to psoriasis screening, CV risk assessment, and treatment ($p < .05$). This reflected an overall effect size for knowledge of 1.4 (large = .8). Performance was also improved as result of the activity, with significantly more participants versus controls screening for psoriatic arthritis

in at least 76% of their patients with psoriasis (37% vs. 7%, $p = .005$). “These results give us the qualitative data that supports the use of medical simulation in educational activities,” said Perez.

Participants also found value in this education, stating, “*This was OUTSTANDING! I had no idea the vast medical implications for patients with psoriasis,*” “*I loved the patient simulation, review of medical history, and evaluation of the patient,*” and “*Love the interactive didactic case, and the key point reminder email encouraged me to make a change.*”

“Dermatologists and other healthcare providers learned about best practices for screening, treatment, and counseling, resulting in more frequent screening for psoriatic arthritis, compared to matched controls,” said Perez. “The online medical simulation provided a safe and effective environment for healthcare providers to improve their clinical decision-making methods.”

CMEO continues to integrate medical simulation into its educational activities as result of these findings and anticipates seeing continued improvements in knowledge, confidence and performance among clinicians.

About CME Outfitters, LLC

CME Outfitters develops and distributes live, recorded and web-based, outcomes- and evidence-based educational activities to thousands of clinicians each year and offers expert accreditation and outcome services for non-accredited organizations. CME Outfitters focuses on delivering education to specialty audiences, with strong expertise in neuroscience, inflammatory, infectious, and autoimmune diseases, and cardiovascular disease. For a complete list of certified activities and more information, visit www.cmeoutfitters.com or call 877.CME.PROS (877.263.7767).

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