

Unmet educational needs and clinical practice gaps in the management of generalized pustular psoriasis: Global perspectives from the front line

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Generalized pustular psoriasis (GPP) is rare but potentially life-threatening if the initiation of appropriate treatment is delayed. Therefore, increased awareness of the condition is crucial to facilitate early patient referral to a specialist for confirmatory diagnosis, treatment and ongoing management

PURPOSE

To conduct a global virtual workshop to review current real-world standards of care in GPP and the variation between countries as well as to identify healthcare professional (HCP) educational needs and clinical practice gaps in GPP management.

INTRODUCTION

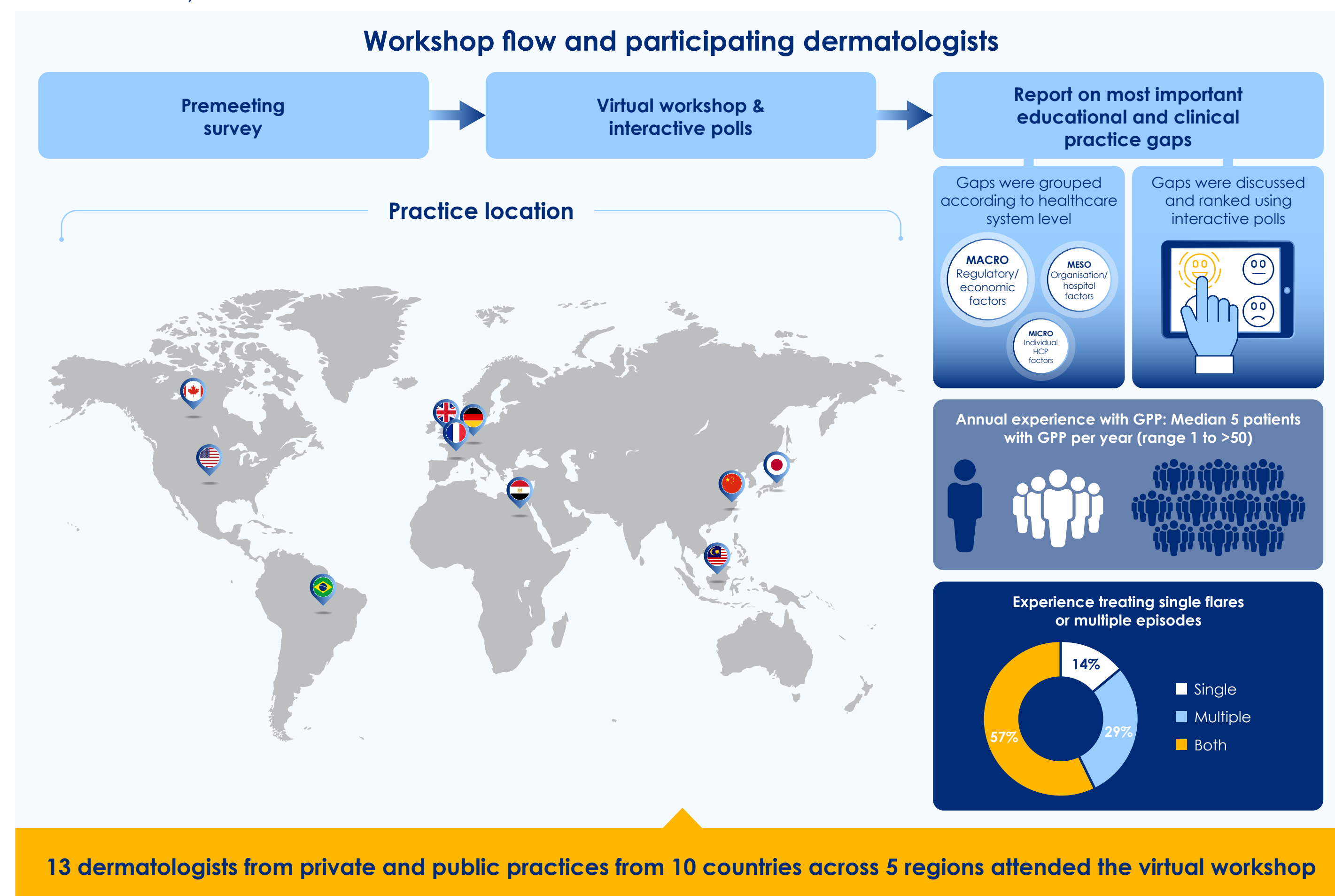
- GPP is a rare, neutrophilic, autoinflammatory skin disease characterised by episodes (or flares) of widespread, sterile, macroscopically visible pustules with or without systemic inflammation^{1,3}
 - GPP is associated with a significant clinical burden, has a detrimental effect on patient quality of life and can be life-threatening if untreated
- Inconsistent diagnostic criteria and a lack of approved therapies pose serious challenges to the management of GPP; furthermore, successful management of GPP flares requires rapid treatment
- Lack of HCP experience of GPP often means that the condition is neither diagnosed promptly nor referred appropriately, resulting in treatment delays that can have a negative impact on response
 - There is an urgent need to increase HCP awareness of GPP²

CONCLUSIONS

- As GPP is rare, it is impossible for all clinical centres to develop an adequate level of experience to manage the disease
- The most important educational needs are that both non-dermatologists and dermatologists should:
 - Appreciate that GPP can be life-threatening if the initiation of appropriate treatment is delayed
 - Understand when to refer patients with GPP to a specialist for confirmatory diagnosis, treatment and ongoing management
- Robust clinical trial data, consensus diagnostic criteria and guidelines for the treatment and prevention of GPP flares are also needed
- Some academic- and community-based practices regularly see patients with GPP; these practices should learn efficiently from their experience and subsequently serve as specialist centres in collaborating with other, less experienced centres to ensure the delivery of consistent, best-practice treatment and holistic management for patients with GPP

METHODS

- A global virtual workshop was conducted in July 2020 to:
 - Gather insights from HCPs about their experiences in managing patients with GPP
 - Identify unmet educational needs and clinical practice gaps and group them according to 'macro', 'meso' and 'micro' healthcare system levels



References

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RESULTS

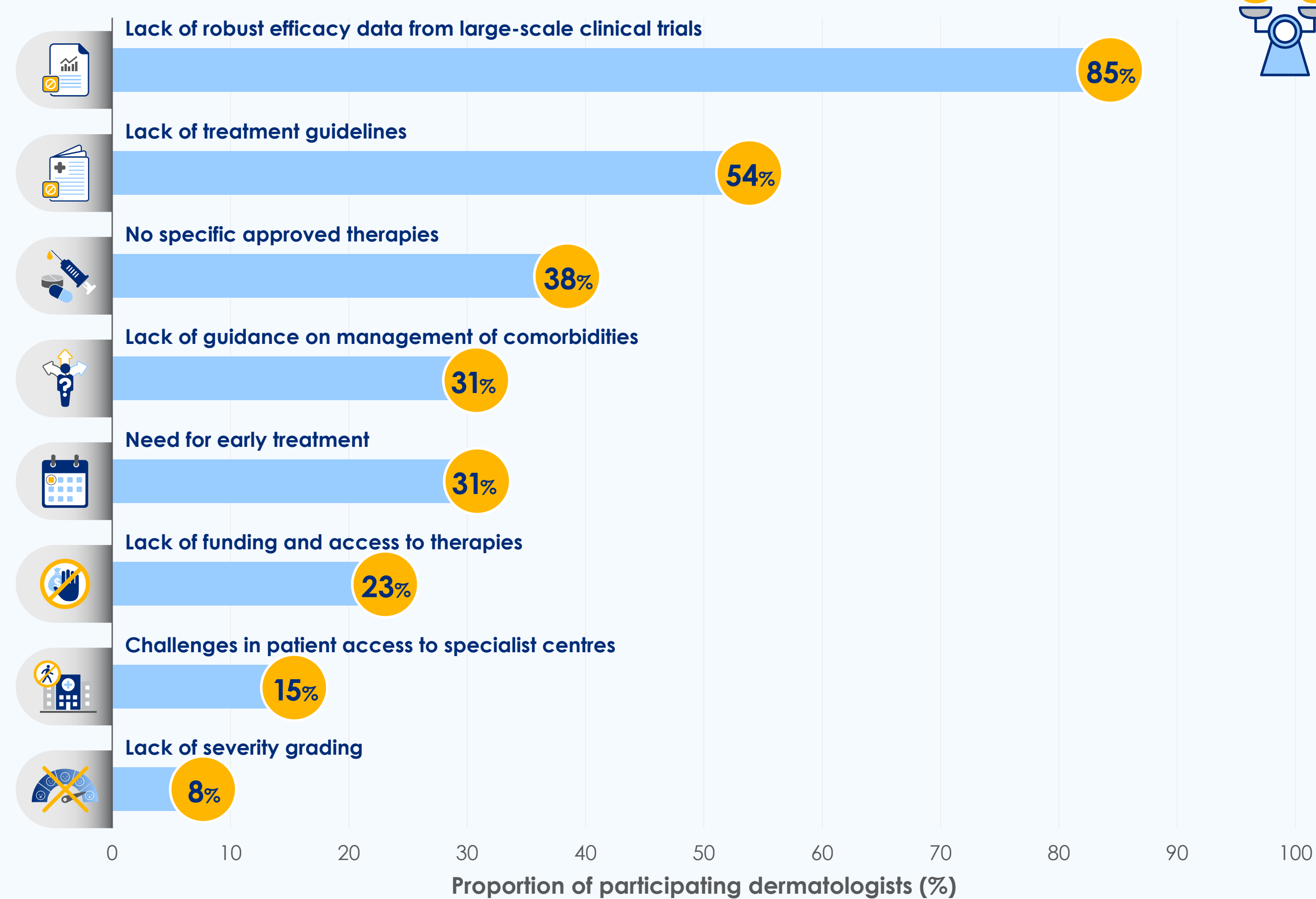
Key perspectives and challenges identified by participating dermatologists regarding the diagnosis, treatment and management of GPP

Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Differential diagnosis is a key challenge in obtaining an accurate GPP diagnosis Misdiagnosis is frequent among non-dermatologists, which can cause delays in referral and the initiation of appropriate GPP treatment Both the ERASPEEN and JDA definitions of GPP are associated with some limitations Less experienced dermatologists and non-dermatologists encounter GPP very rarely so they often have a poor understanding of appropriate GPP treatment and management
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retinoids, methotrexate and cyclosporine are the most widely used therapies to treat GPP, but the availability of biologics in some countries has improved management of the disease Dermatologists' expectations of GPP treatment responses vary depending on the selected therapy Biologics are promising options for the treatment of GPP Prohibitive costs and insurance limitations can prevent patients with GPP from accessing the most effective treatments Although MDT collaboration is often preferred in GPP management, shared decision-making is associated with its own unique challenges The lack of guidelines to support GPP treatment selection is a crucial unmet need in supporting disease management
Ongoing management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of GPP disease severity guidelines and validated assessment tools would streamline patient assessments for dermatologists Educating patients on their role in disease management is key to delaying the occurrence of GPP flares Managing comorbidities of GPP is a considerable challenge in patient care and warrants further guidance and investigation Psychological follow up is an important (but frequently overlooked) aspect of long-term care for patients with GPP Regional nuances and socioeconomic factors can present challenges in access to care for patients with GPP

ERASPEEN, European Rare and Severe Psoriasis Expert Network; JDA, Japanese Dermatological Association; MDT, multidisciplinary team.

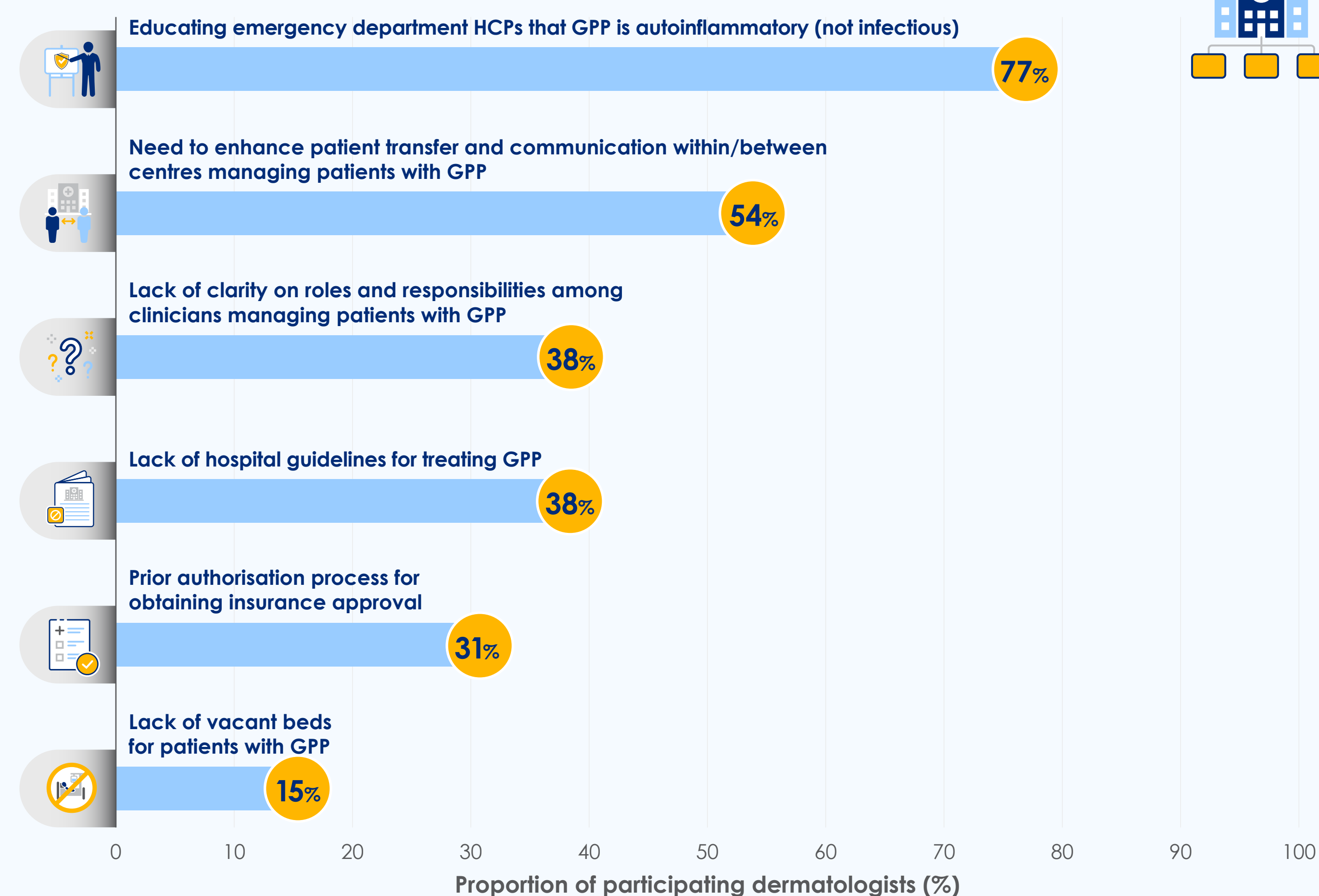
Less experienced dermatologists and non-dermatologists often have a poor understanding of appropriate GPP treatment and management

Key identified gaps at the macro level: regulatory and economic factors



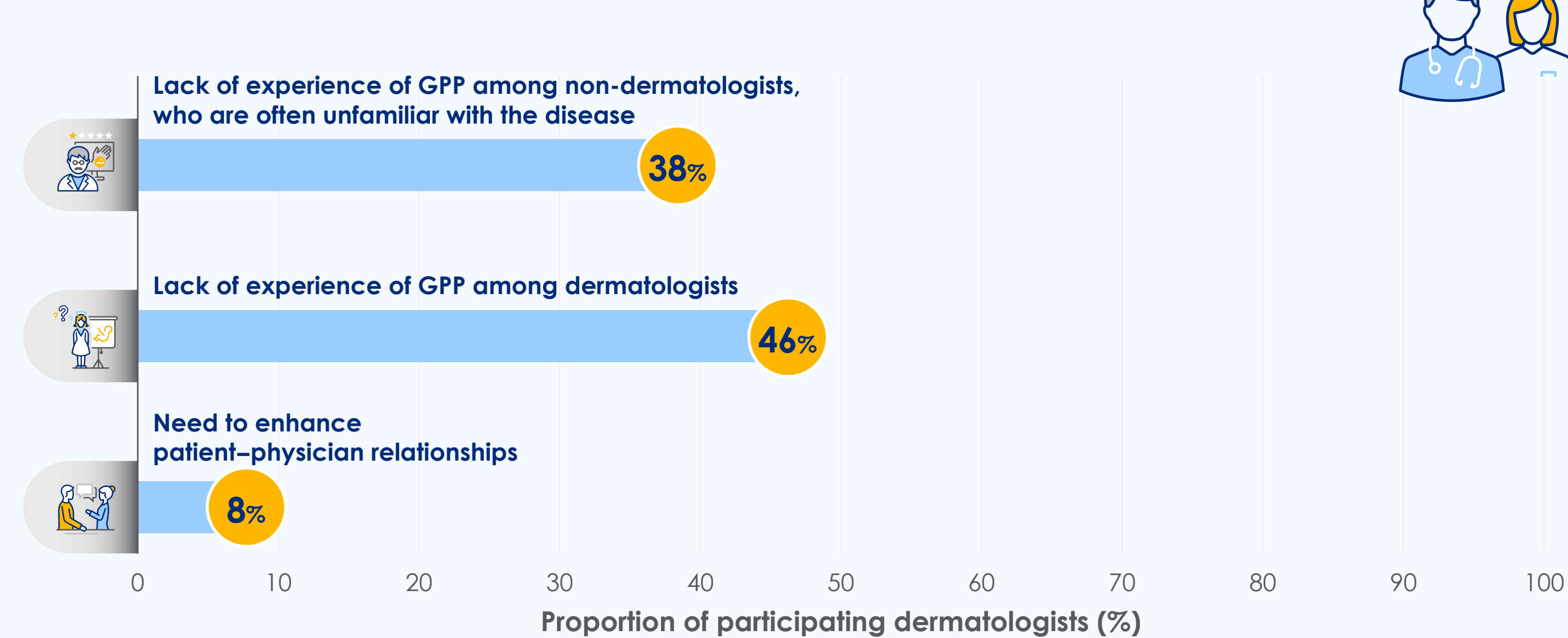
The need for robust clinical trial data was the highest priority, followed by the need for clear and consistent treatment guidelines and approved therapies

Key identified gaps at the meso level: organisational and hospital factors



Educating emergency department HCPs to recognise GPP as an autoinflammatory disease rather than an infection was a high priority

Key identified gaps at the micro level: individual HCP factors



Lack of experience of GPP diagnosis and/or management among HCPs was the highest priority individual-level clinical practice gap



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