

Introduction

- **Health literacy (HL)** represents the degree to which patients can understand and act upon health information (1).
- **Limited health literacy** has a negative impact on clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction, risk of hospitalization, and patient decision making (2). This concept has only recently been introduced in hand surgery (3).
- **Aim:** To determine the **prevalence of limited health literacy** in Dupuytren's patients.

Methods

- Design and setting: **Cross-sectional** study at a tertiary care hand program in a large urban city.
- Sample size estimate: n = 165 based on 95% CI, desired margin of error of 7%, estimated limited HL proportion of 30%.
- Eligibility: 1) Clinical diagnosis of Dupuytren's; 2) Self-reported English fluency.
- Measurement tool: The **Newest Vital Sign (NVS)** a rapid, validated and reliable tool. For scoring interpretation, we defined limited HL as a score of 0-3 and adequate literacy as 4-6 out of 6.

Results

- A total of **185 patients** completed study questionnaires, 2 refused to participate and 4 were not eligible.

Variables	N = 185	Limited Health Literacy		p-value*
		Yes n = 82	No n = 103	
Age (years), mean (SD)	185	63 (10.8)	61.9 (10.9)	0.006*
Maternal language, n (%)				
English	149	58 (70.7)	91 (88.4)	0.003*
Other	36	24 (29.3)	12 (11.7)	
Income quintile, n (%)				
1 st	7	5 (9.6)	2 (2.7)	0.0004*
2 nd	20	10 (19.2)	10 (13.3)	
3 rd	16	13 (25.0)	3 (4.0)	
4 th	15	6 (11.5)	9 (12.0)	
5 th	69	18 (34.6)	51 (68.0)	
Private insurance, n (%)				
Yes	115	45 (54.9)	70 (68.0)	0.047*
No	70	37 (45.1)	33 (32.0)	
Education, n (%)				
<High school	5	5 (6.1)	0 (0)	0.005*
High school	28	17 (20.7)	11 (10.7)	
>High school	152	60 (73.2)	92 (89.3)	
Employment status, n (%)				
No	11	7 (8.5)	4 (3.9)	0.039*
Yes	93	33 (40.2)	60 (58.3)	
Retired	81	42 (51.2)	39 (37.9)	

Table 1: Baseline patients' characteristics.

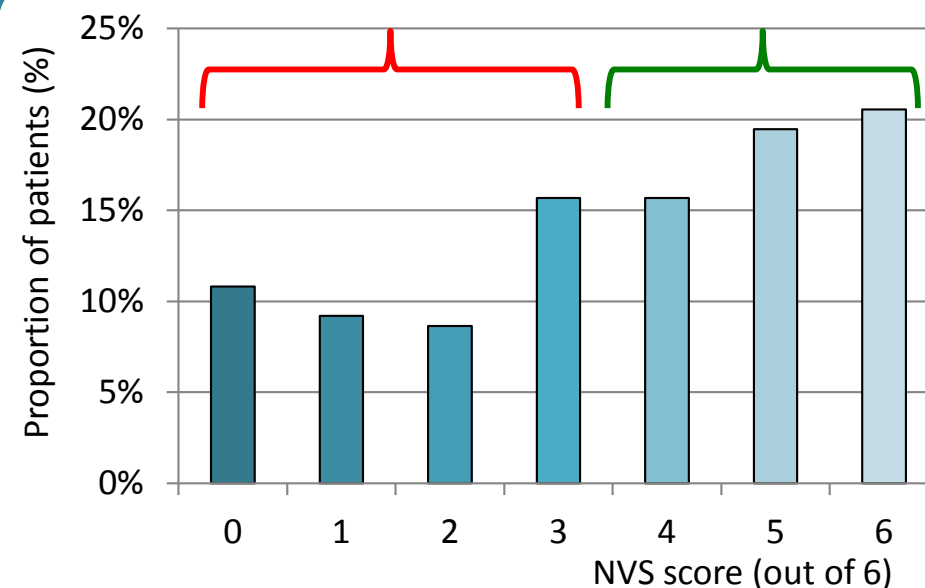


Figure 1: Health literacy scores' distribution.

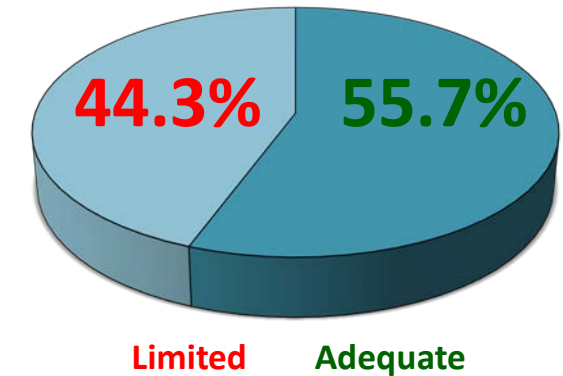


Figure 2: Prevalence of limited health literacy.

Conclusions

- Our study demonstrates a **high prevalence of limited health literacy (44%)** among the Dupuytren's patient population.
- Integration of the concept of health literacy in the hand surgeons' clinical practice may involve **universal screening**, identification of patients more at risk based on possible **predictors of limited HL**, or use of **universal "precautions"**/ measures of support when communicating with patients.
- Future data analysis will explore possible predictors of limited health literacy.

References

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2. Berkman ND, Sheridan SL, Donahue KE, et al. Health literacy interventions and outcomes: an updated systematic review. *Evid Rep Technol Assess*. 2011;1:1-941.
3. Menendez ME, Mudgal CS, Jupiter JB, et al Health literacy in hand surgery patients: a cross-sectional survey. *J Hand Surg Am*. 2015;40:798-804.e2.