# GENDER CORRELATIONS BETWEEN SEXUAL HEALTH AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS FOR A GROUP OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS PATIENTS

**[1]LEE KAM SHEUNG AMY, [2]IP GI TING, [3]FUNG SIN YU, [4]HO WING SZE, [5]KWOK WING TUNG, [6]LAM PUI WING, [7]LAI HOI LAM, [8]LEE KWAN YEE JUNE, [9]LI CHO YU, [10]LI MAN CHING, [11]TANG KA YI, [12]LIU TAI WA**

Hong Kong Metropolitan University
E-mail: kslee@hkmu.edu.hk

**Abstract** - Limited studies on atopic dermatitis (AD) have investigated the gender correlations between sexual health and depressive symptoms. This study aims to determine the gender correlations between sexual desire (SD), sexual satisfaction (SS) and depressive symptoms (DS) among AD patients in Hong Kong. Patients with AD from a non-profit patients support organization in Hong Kong were enrolled in this correlational study from June to August 2021. AD severity, SD, SS and DS were measured using the Patient Oriented Eczema Measure Scale, Sexual Desire Inventory-2, Sexual Satisfaction Scale and 9-item Patient Health Questionnaire respectively. All instruments used were the validated Chinese versions. Among the participants (n=385), with mean age 31.9 ± 8.9 years old, the severity of AD was moderately negatively correlated with the levels of SD among women ($r=-.416$, $p<.05$), whereas men had a slight association between the severity of AD and the levels of SD ($r=-.190$, $p<.05$). Additionally, there was a strong inverse correlation between the levels of SS and the severity of DS among men ($r=-.70$, $p<.05$) while women had a moderate association between these two variables ($r=-.605$, $p<.05$). A deep negative impact on sexual health and mental health for AD was demonstrated in this study.