Pruritus

Subjects Organ systems

Dermatology and venereology, Palliative medicine, Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy

Psyche, Skin

Chronic itching (syn. pruritus, lasting more than 6 weeks) is a very distressing symptom that affects almost one in four people during their lifetime. Often those affected suffer severely from itching, which can often lead to psychological symptoms such as anxiety or depression. Although the itching sensation has been the subject of intensive research for many years, sexand gender differences have only recently gained attention. On a biological, i.e. physical level, differences were found in the processing of the itch sensation in the brain as well as in the periphery. Women seem to perceive itching more intensely, which results in increased scratching. Women also suffer more emotionally from itching, which is reflected in higher levels of depression and anxiety. Unfortunately, knowledge about possible sex and gender differences in diagnosis or therapy is still rather limited. Further studies should therefore be conducted as a matter of urgency in order to be able to offer those affected a treatment plan taken sex

Summary

aspects under consideration.
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