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**HOW IS THE USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)  
AFFECTING OUR FACIAL SKIN? A SURVEY STUDY**

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**Introduction.** Obligatory wearing of PPE caused the appearance of a new dermatosis - maskne.

**Aim:** to assess the impact of choice and use of PPE on the formation of skin lesions and causing dermatoses, especially in the areas they cover.

**Materials and methods.** In 2020 an original anonymous online survey was carried among 26 dermatologists and 360 volunteers with 60 questions about the use of PPE and skin lesions they experienced before and during pandemic. Chi-Square statistics were performed, with a p-value <0.05.

**Results.** The group of 360 patients consist of 76.5% females and 23.5% males. An average age of the patient is 26.08±0.94. Dermatologist group contained of 100% females. All participants used PPE. The most popular in patients group is a disposable mask (55%), while dermatologists prefer FFP2/FFP3/N95 mask (30.8%). Over 80% of all respondents noticed lesions. Almost all dermatologists observed their patients lesions' worsened during the pandemic. More than half (53.8%) of dermatologists came across maskne in their office. There was statistically significant difference between experiencing purulent lesions (48.6%), increased sweating (15.2%), itching (12.4%) and decreased excessive dryness (21%) before and during the pandemic around mouth, nose and cheeks area. Almost all (98%) of volunteers and 10% of dermatologists admitted not following certain hygiene rules such as reusing disposable mask, touching the face, not sanitizing or washing hands before and after putting and removing a mask. Less than 10% of survey respondents sought medical attention and in 60% treatment was successful and in 30% lesions relapsed.

**Conclusions.** Most dermatologists recognized "maskne" as a current and urgent problem to be cured. The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic indicated a discussion about following general sanitary rules, but hygiene of using PPE was unfortunately omitted which is crucial to prevent from formations of skin lesions of any type. Education on the correct use of PPE and awareness of the "maskne" problem should be improved.