

International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI)

IFSI, 2200 Silas Creek Parkway Suite 7B, Winston-Salem NC 27103 USA



Chronic itch during the COVID-19 pandemic

Heidelberg (Germany), June 2020 – Chronic itch is a frequent symptom in many skin conditions and can also occur in the setting of chronic kidney failure, cholestatic liver disease or neurological conditions. Itch occurs worldwide. While itch may be most prevalent in infectious skin diseases in many tropical and subtropical countries, chronic diseases frequently often show chronic itch in Western countries. Chronic itch is a very impairing and very burdensome symptom that needs help. Even during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, diagnostics and treatment of patients with chronic itch must not be allowed to take a back seat.

"These patients must not be left alone. They have a right to be treated appropriately. Even in times of a corona pandemic, good drug therapy options are available to those affected", emphasizes Professor Elke Weisshaar, president of IFSI. Patients should consult their dermatologist, who can refer them to an expert.

Chronic itch is often difficult to treat, especially because in about 1/3 of the cases the cause remains unclear. Often, different medical disciplines are consulted to find the appropriate treatment for the patient. In addition to drug therapy, patients also receive behavioural tips for dealing with the pruritus as well as – if necessary – psychological support.

The International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI) is a multidisciplinary international association of clinical practitioners, researchers and scientists dedicated to improving our understanding and treatment of itch for the benefit of suffering patients worldwide. The Society is a non-profit charitable organization (501c3 status registered in NC, USA). Membership is open to clinicians, researchers, scientists and other health professionals engaged in the research and treatment of itch.

Contact

Prof. Dr. med. Elke Weisshaar
University Hospital Heidelberg
Occupational Dermatology
Department of Dermatology
Voßstr. 2
69115 Heidelberg
Germany

Email: Elke.Weisshaar@med.uni-heidelberg.de