



Practice patterns and educational needs in chronic hand eczema management: a national survey of 137 French dermatologists

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P0143

EADV Congress 2026
Vienna, 30 Sept – 3 Oct

47%

of patients require an adjustment
of their daily activities

32

items, five domains,
one month of fieldwork

8

CHE patients seen
per month, on average

42%

familiar with the ESCD /
EuroGuiDerm guidelines

15%

routinely use the DLQI
for severity assessment

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Chronic hand eczema (CHE) is the most prevalent occupational skin disease in Europe, with a reported annual prevalence of **4.7%** in adults¹, accounting for a major burden of work-related disability.

Despite recent advances in diagnostics (including standardised contact allergen identification), prevention and targeted therapeutics, real-world management remains heterogeneous. New severity assessment tools and treatment algorithms introduced by the **ESCD / EuroGuiDerm** guidelines³ have not yet been characterised in routine practice.

Objective: to assess current practice patterns and educational needs of French dermatologists in CHE management.

MATERIALS & METHODS

Design. 32-item structured online questionnaire, disseminated nationally through a French collaborative dermatology network.

Fieldwork. 24 June – 24 July 2025, independent third-party platform ensuring anonymous data handling.

Analysis. Descriptive statistics.

- Demographics and CHE caseload
- Diagnostic workup: clinical features, patch testing, referral
- Clinical phenotypes and triggers
- Severity assessment and prescribing patterns (TCS, alitretinoin, topical delgocitinib, off-label calcineurin inhibitors, phototherapy, ciclosporin, methotrexate, biologics, oral JAK inhibitors)
- Self-reported educational needs

RESPONDENT PROFILE

69%

women

49

years, mean age

56%

private practice

70%

>10 years' experience

137

completed responses

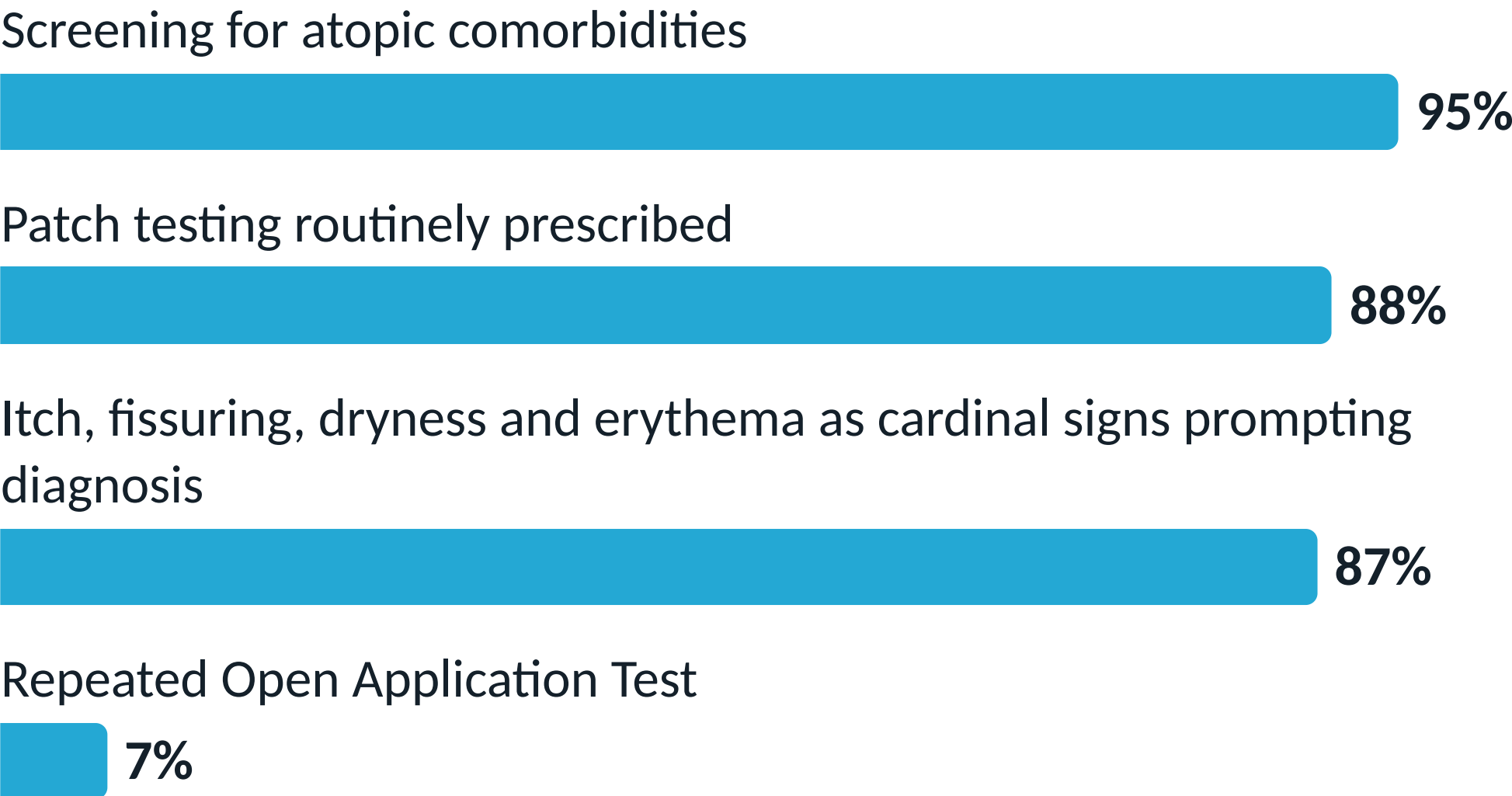
8

CHE patients / month

DIAGNOSTIC WORKUP

Practices reported by respondents

% of the 137 dermatologists

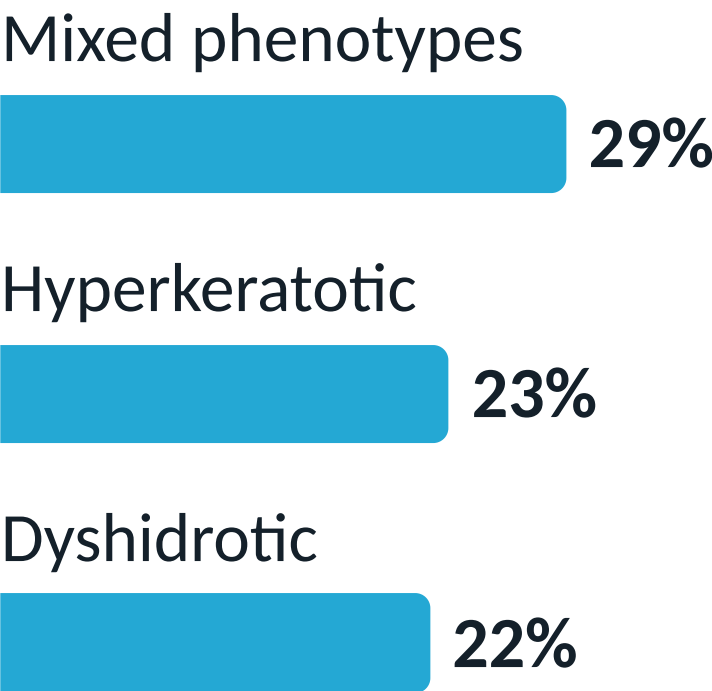


Diagnostic practices are broadly aligned with European standards, with the notable exception of the Repeated Open Application Test.

PHENOTYPES & TRIGGERS

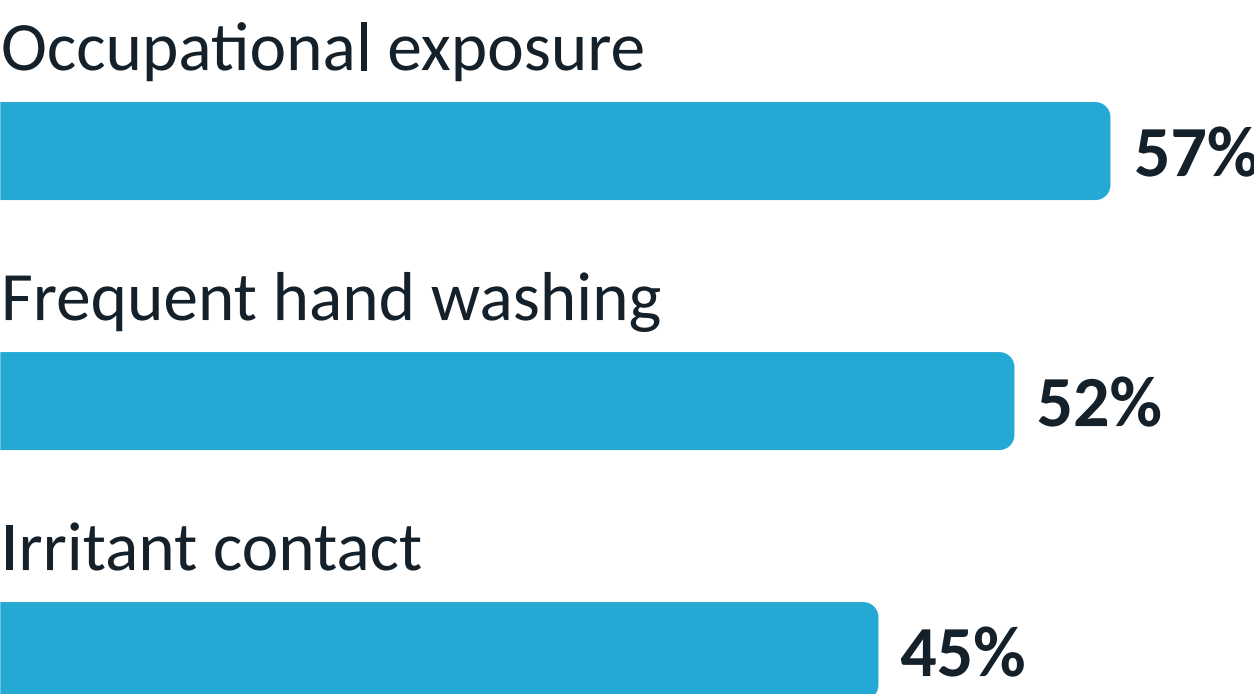
Most frequently encountered subtypes

% of respondents reporting the subtype as the most frequent in routine practice



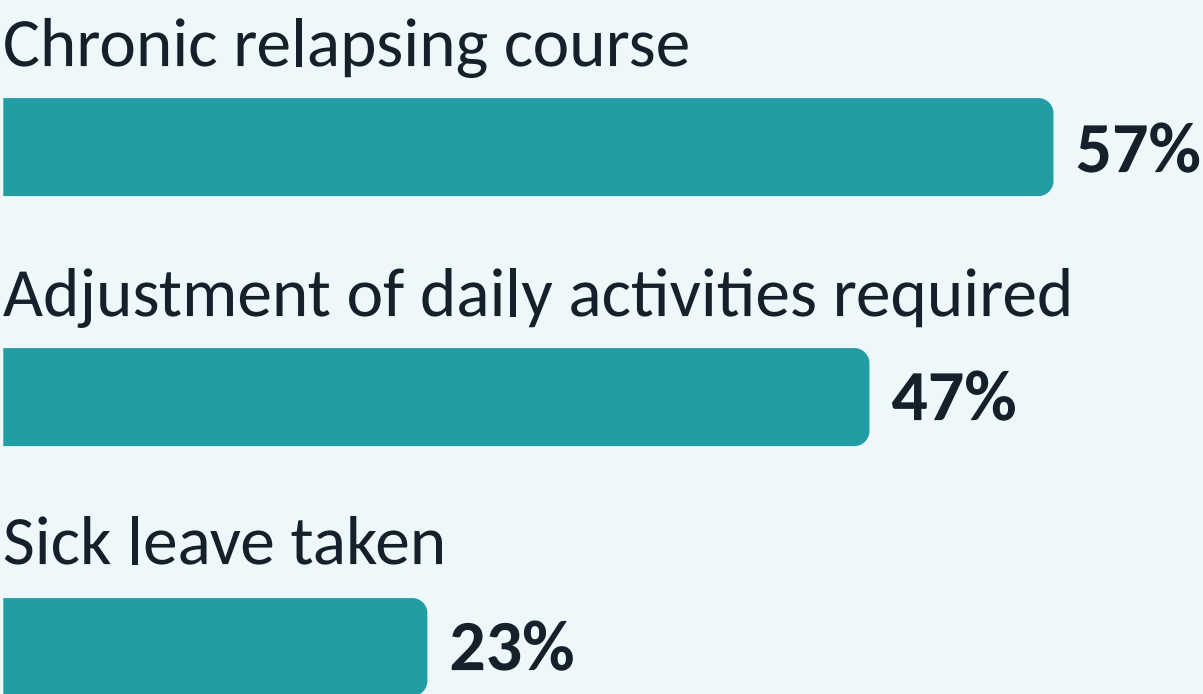
Leading triggers

% of respondents



Frequent hand washing persists as a trigger beyond the COVID-19 period.

DISEASE COURSE & IMPACT



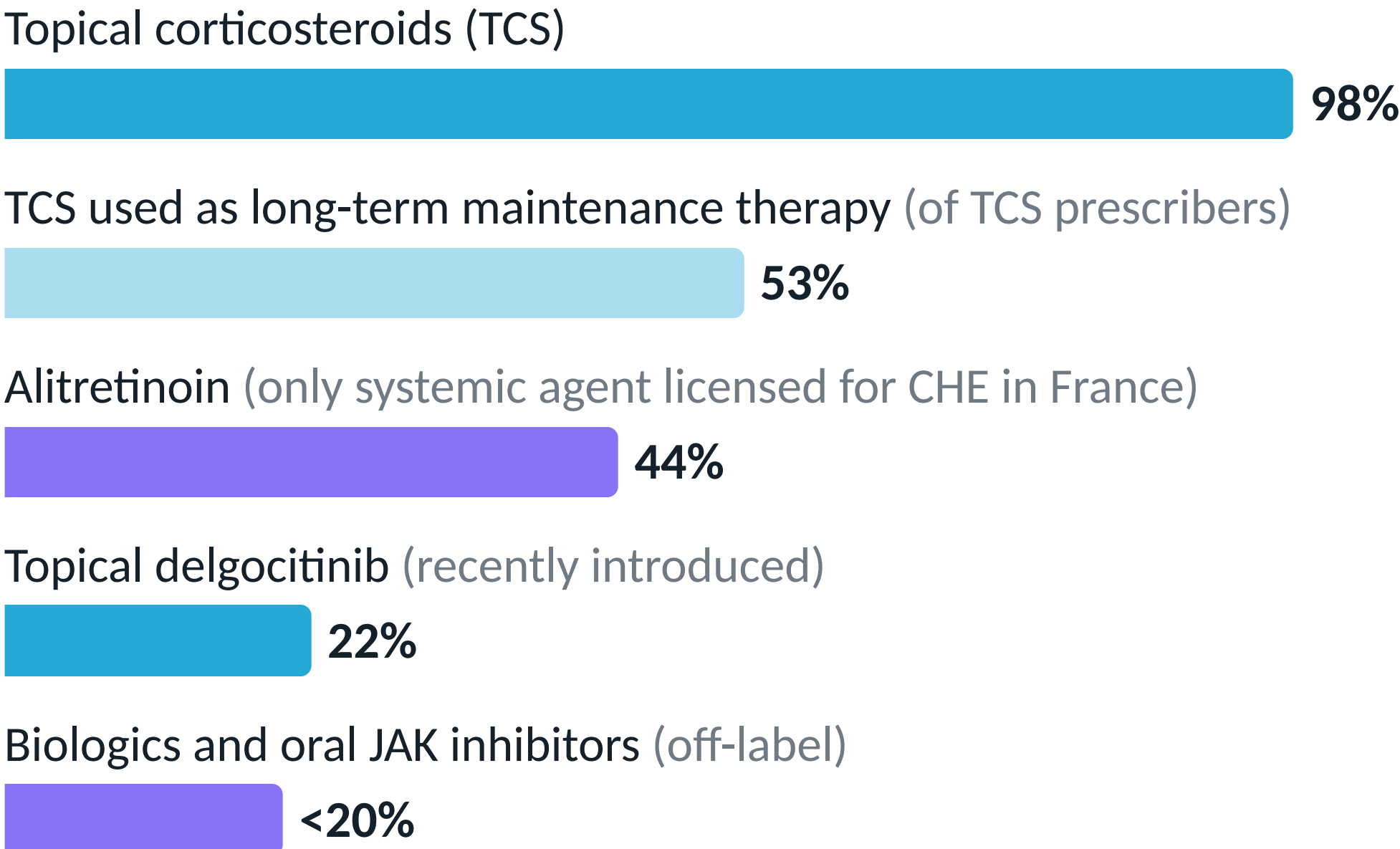
Proportions of patients, as reported by respondents.

PRESCRIBING PATTERNS

Treatments prescribed regularly

% of the 137 dermatologists

■ Topical ■ Systemic ■ Subset of TCS prescribers



Early clinical uptake of topical delgocitinib contrasts with the continued reliance on long-term topical corticosteroids.

THREE ACTIONABLE GAPS

1 • Guideline awareness

42% familiar with the ESCD / EuroGuiDerm guidelines.

Reported barriers: lack of time (**56%**), preference for national guidance (**51%**). Only **40%** attended any CHE-dedicated continuing medical education in the previous 12 months.

2 • Patient-reported outcomes

15% routinely use the Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) for severity assessment, despite its place in current severity algorithms.

3 • Educational needs

85% expressed a clear need for further training on targeted topical therapies.

REFERENCES

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2. Bernier C, Crépey MN, Halioua B, et al. Assessment of practices in chronic hand eczema management from CHEMIN, a national Delphi survey. *Contact Dermatitis.* 2025. doi:10.1111/cod.70001
3. Thyssen JP, Schuttelaar MLA, Alfonso JH, et al. Guidelines for diagnosis, prevention and treatment of hand eczema (EuroGuiDerm). *Contact Dermatitis.* 2022;86(5):357–378. doi:10.1111/cod.14035

CONCLUSIONS

French dermatologists' diagnostic practices are well aligned with European standards, while three priority areas emerge, complementing the previously published CHEMIN survey²:

- limited awareness of the ESCD / EuroGuiDerm guidelines;
- the need to take patients' reported outcomes into account;
- an evolving therapeutic landscape in which the choice between long-term TCS use and earlier introduction of novel topical agents remains driven by individual practitioner familiarity.

These findings support

- the development of harmonised national French recommendations;
- routine integration of validated severity tools into clinical practice;
- structured continuing medical education focused on newly approved topical therapies.