



Canadian Guidelines  
for the  
Management of

# Plaque Psoriasis

## MEDIA RELEASE

FIRST CANADIAN GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PLAQUE PSORIASIS PUBLISHED  
*Evidence-based clinical guidelines for undertreated disease that affects more than 520,000 Canadians*

TORONTO, Ontario, June 18, 2009 – The Canadian Psoriasis Guidelines Committee today announced the publication of the first Canadian evidence-based clinical guidelines for the management of plaque psoriasis. The 108-page document has been distributed to the dermatology community and made available for free download on the Web, courtesy of the Canadian Dermatology Association.

According to data unique to the new Guidelines, there are more than 520,000 Canadians with plaque psoriasis. Plaque psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease that requires ongoing, life-long care. Due to the physical disfigurement and discomfort of the disease, plaque psoriasis can have a similar mental and physical impact to that of cancer, arthritis, heart disease, diabetes and depression. Many patients remain undertreated, even those with the most severe forms of the disease.

The 108-page *Canadian Guidelines for the Management of Plaque Psoriasis* are the end result of almost two years' hard work by an independent committee of 16 community dermatologists, headed by Chair, Dr Kim Papp. "Plaque psoriasis is a complex, undertreated disease with a huge impact on patients," said Dr Papp. "Patients are often frustrated by an apparent lack of effective treatment. We set out to produce the first, definitive, evidence-based guidelines in Canada that were truly patient-centred. Physicians using the Guidelines are encouraged to consider not only therapies that work but those that the patient will work with."

The Canadian Psoriasis Guidelines are endorsed by the Canadian Dermatology Association. The development of the Guidelines was made possible by 10 industry supporters, who had no involvement in the drafting of the Guidelines and were unaware of the identities of the Guidelines Committee members.

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