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AS-1435: Unmet Needs and Disease Burden: Perspectives from Adults with Psoriasis and Clinicians Treating Psoriasis in Germany and the US

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Conflicts of Interest

MA, LSG, EV, JS, MS, and JL: Consultants for Johnson & Johnson.

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Background/Objective

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Background and Objective



Background

- Despite therapeutic advances, psoriasis (PsO) continues to be associated with substantial unmet patient needs.
 - PsO affects approximately 2 million people in Germany, eight million people in the US, and more than 125 million people worldwide.^{1,2,3}
 - Understanding patient and healthcare provider perspectives is critical to optimize PsO care.
- This presentation highlights findings from the German and US cohorts of the global ENCOMPASS program, an 11-country global study, to evaluate clinical profiles, disease burden, treatment preferences and goals, and the impact of PsO on patient quality of life (QoL).



Objective

- To characterize the treatment experiences of US and Germany HCPs and adult patients who are candidates for systemic therapy, with the goal of informing patient-centered treatment strategies and disease management approaches in these countries.
- To quantify unmet needs and current treatment preferences in the US and Germany.

Abbreviations: **HCP** = healthcare provider; **PsO** = psoriasis; **QoL** = quality of life

1. Augustin M, et al. *Br J Dermatol*. 2010;162(3):633-636. 2021;157(8):940-946. 2. Rachakonda TD, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2014;70(3):512-516. 3. Hagenström K, et al. *JDDG*. 2024; 22: 45–54.

Methods & Analysis

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Methods & Analysis



Methods

- A web-based global survey conducted between March and December 2025 among the following groups:
 - Patients: adult patients (Germany & US) (≥ 18 years old) with a diagnosis of PsO eligible for systemic therapy, as defined by one or more of the following three categories specified in the International Psoriasis Council guidelines³:
 - PsO lesions on $\geq 10\%$ of body surface area (BSA)
 - PsO lesions on high-impact sites of the body, e.g., hands/feet, face, genitals, scalp, or nails
 - Topical therapy that failed to control PsO symptoms
 - HCPs: advanced clinicians (Germany & US) working in dermatology practices, who dedicated at least 50% of their practice to medical dermatology and treated PsO cases in the past year.
- PROs: The Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) was administered to adults to assess the impact of PsO on QoL.
- Study design: A sequential, mixed-methods, non-interventional study combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews, with a purposive and quota-based sampling strategy to ensure robust representation of targeted adult PsO patients.



Analysis

- Survey results were analyzed descriptively using R (v4.3.1)
- Data were analyzed separately by country (Germany and US).

Results

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Sociodemographic Characteristics of Adult Patients

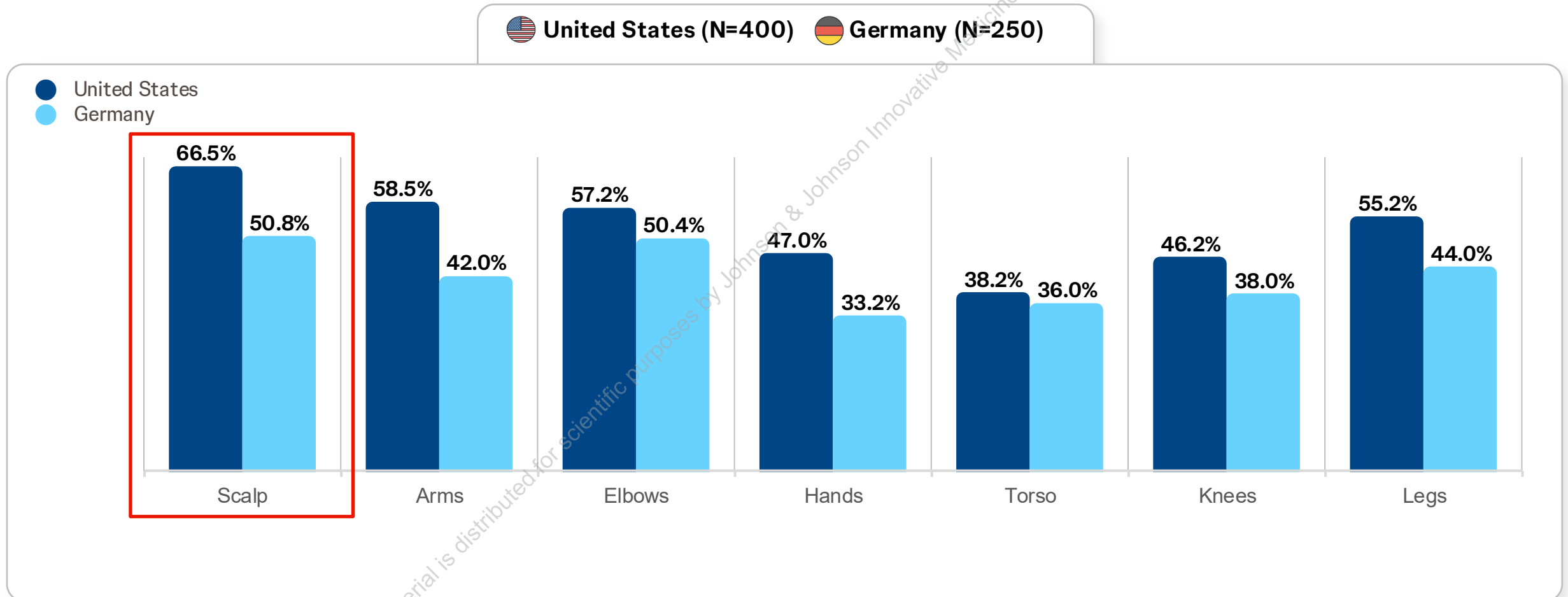
		 United States (N=400)^a	 Germany (N=250)^b
Average age (years)		43.9	46.4
Gender			
	Male	191 (47.8%)	123 (49.2%)
	Female	204 (51.0%)	124 (49.6%)
	Another Identity*	5 (1.3%)	3 (1.2%)
BSA% level^c			
	Low (<5%)	60 (15%)	38 (15.0%)
	Moderate (5%–9%)	220 (55.0%)	137 (55.0%)
	High (≥10%)	120 (30.0%)	75 (30.0%)
PsO Duration			
	Fewer than 3 years	130 (32.5%)	72 (28.8%)
	4–6 years	111 (27.8%)	76 (30.4%)
	7–10 years	52 (13.0%)	40 (16.0%)
	More than 10 years	107 (26.8%)	62 (24.8%)
Top reported Comorbidities^d			
	Psoriatic arthritis (PsA)	179 (44.8%)	86 (34.4%)
	Depression	165 (41.2%)	57 (22.8%)
	Osteoarthritis/RA	67 (16.8%)	49 (19.6%)
	Hypertension	99 (24.8%)	40 (16.0%)

^a Most patient participants in the US (78%) self-identified as White, followed by Hispanic (14%) and Black (12%). ^b German race/ethnicity data was not collected due to German privacy laws. ^c BSA% was self-assessed by patients, who were provided a diagram and instructions on how to measure their BSA%. ^d Answers not mutually exclusive. *Another identity includes participants who identified as transgender/genderqueer/non-binary.

Abbreviations: **BSA** = body surface area; **HCP** = healthcare provider; **PsA** = Psoriatic arthritis; **PsO** = psoriasis; **RA** = rheumatoid arthritis

Unmet Needs: Body Areas Most Commonly Affected by PsO

- The scalp was the most commonly affected body area in both the US and Germany (66.5% vs 50.8%, respectively).



Answers not mutually exclusive; select all that apply out of 14 response options.

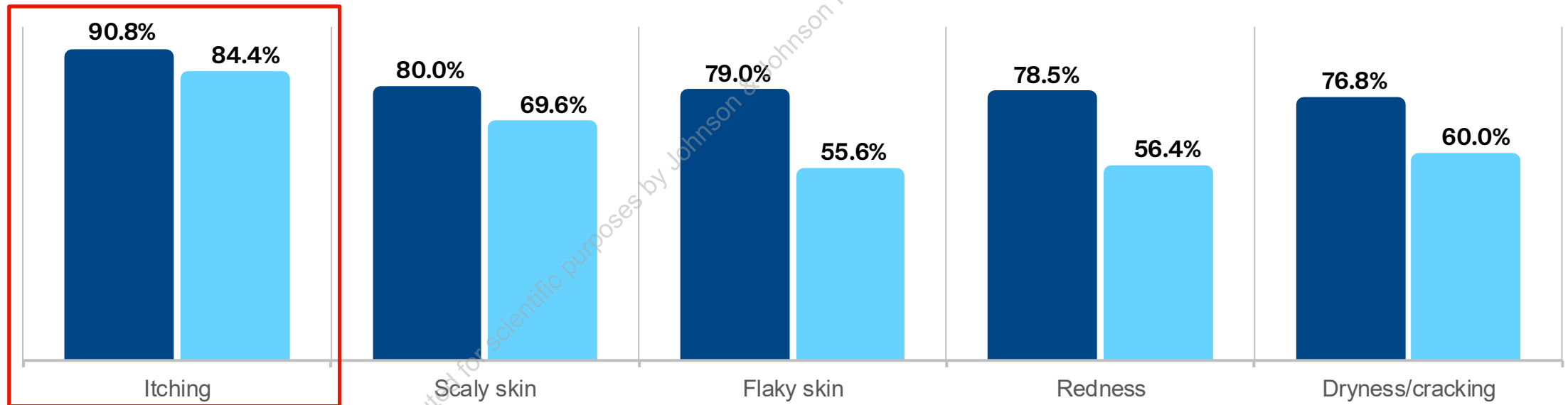
Abbreviation: **PsO** = psoriasis

Unmet Needs: Most Commonly Reported PsO Symptoms

- Itch was the most commonly self-reported symptom in both countries, affecting 91% of patients in the US and 84% in Germany.
- The next top four most frequently reported symptoms were also consistent across countries, but relative rankings differed.

 United States (N=400)  Germany (N=250)

● United States
● Germany



Answers not mutually exclusive; select all that apply out of 13 response options.

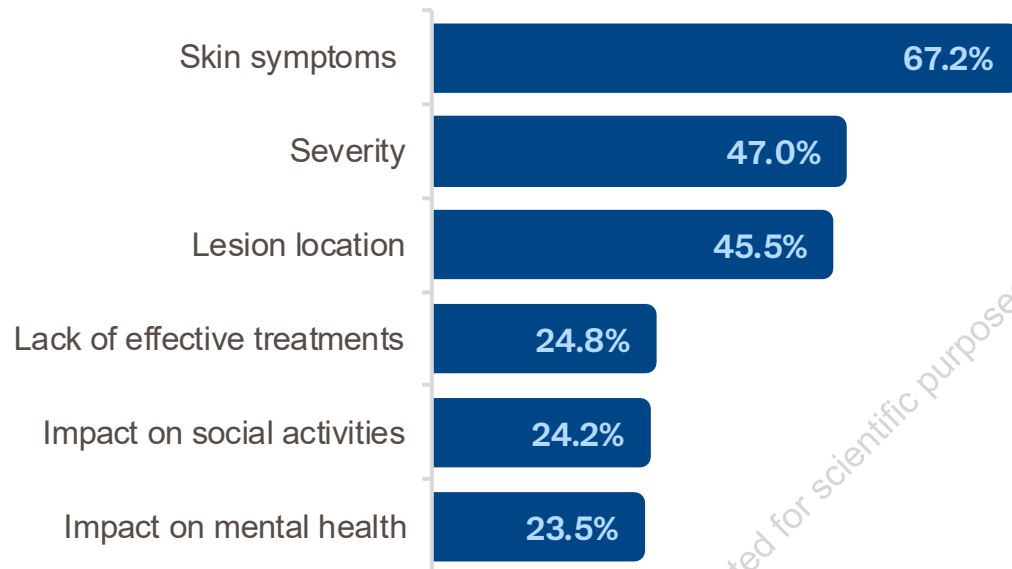
Abbreviation: **PsO** = psoriasis

Unmet Needs: Top Factors Contributing to Disease Burden

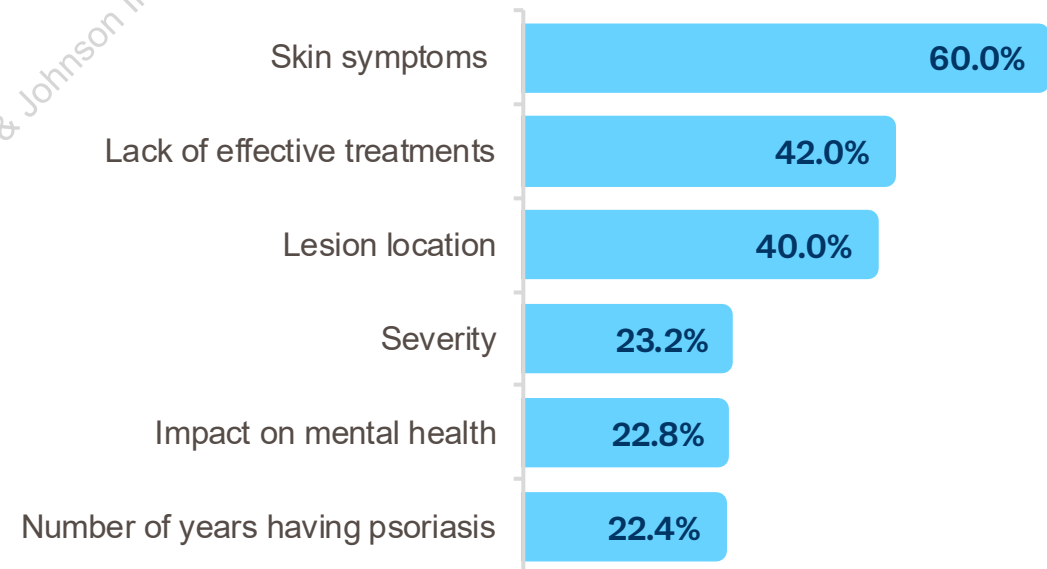
- Skin symptoms was the leading contributor to disease burden in both countries, reported by 67.2% of US patients and 60.0% of German patients.

 **United States (N=400)**

● United States
● Germany



 **Germany (N=250)**



Answers not mutually exclusive; select all that apply out of 13 response options.

Abbreviation: **PsO** = psoriasis

Unmet Needs: Sleep Disruption, Daily Functioning, Impact of PsO Location

- Itch-related sleep disruption on three or more nights per month was consistently reported across the US and Germany (90% and 86%, respectively).
- Itch-related difficulty concentrating during daily activities was also common in both countries (79% in the US and 64% in Germany).
- Most participants in both countries reported being “quite a bit” or “very much” bothered by the location of their psoriasis (75.3% in the US and 64.0% in Germany).

 **United States (N=400)**  **Germany (N=250)**

PsO Impacts on Sleep & Daily Functioning



Sleep disruptions
(≥3 nights per month)



Difficulties
concentrating
on daily activities



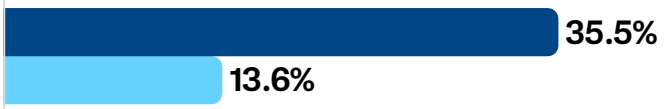
United States
Germany

PsO Bother Due to Location on Body

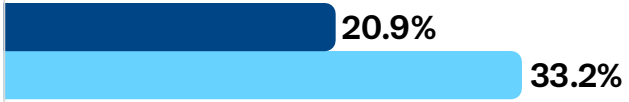
Quite a bit



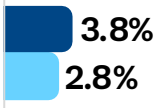
Very much



A little bit



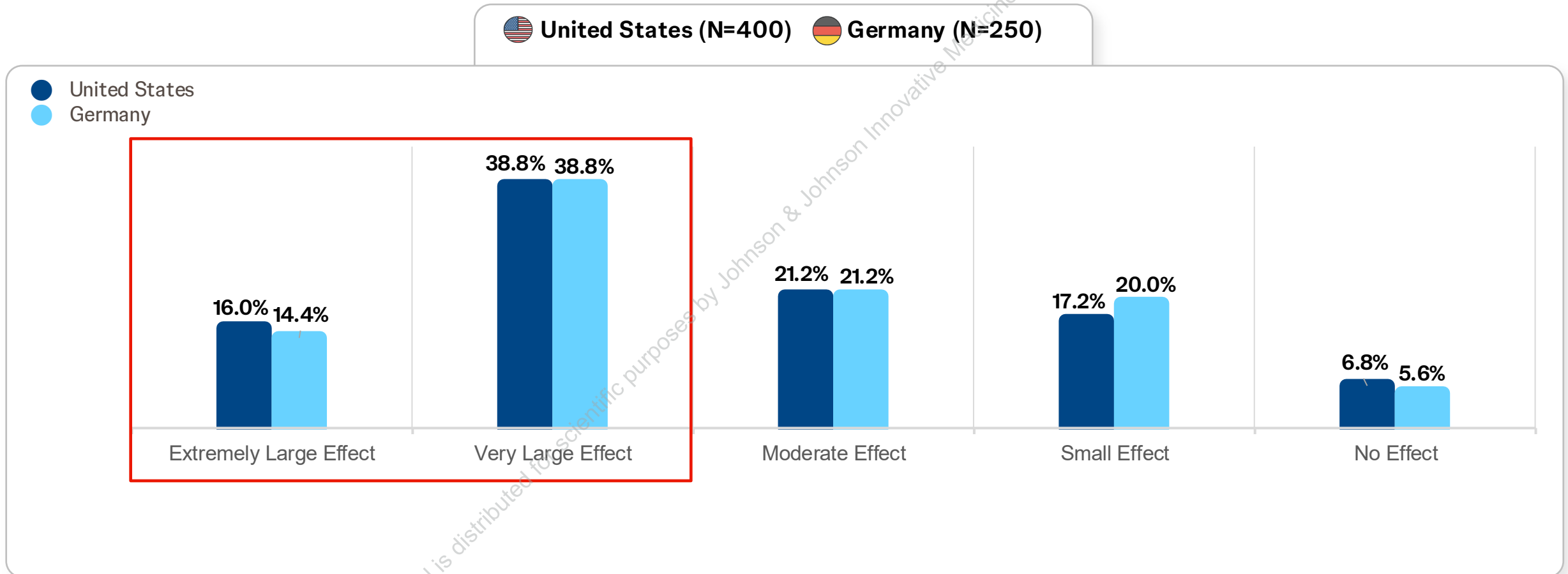
Not at all



United States (n=397)
Germany (n=247)

Quality-of-Life Impact: Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI)

- More than half of patients in both countries reported a “very large” to “extremely large” impact on quality of life, as measured by the DLQI (55% in the US and 53% in Germany).



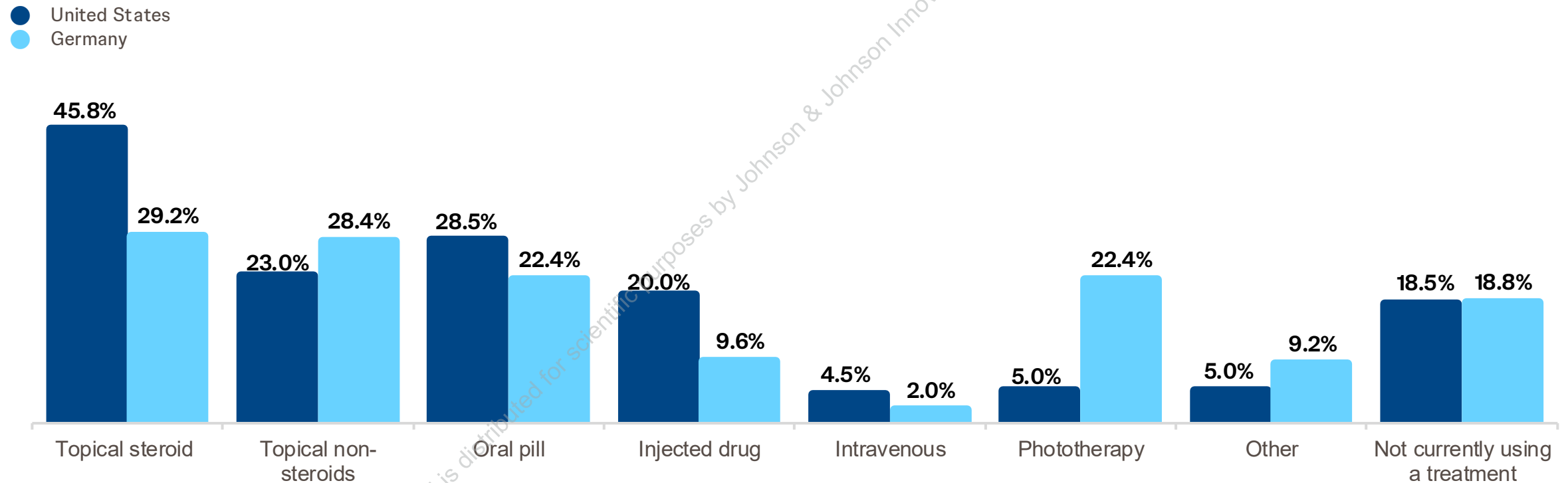
^aDLQI score interpretations: 0–1 = no effect at all on patient's life; 2–5 = small effect on patient's life; 6–10 = moderate effect on patient's life; 11–20 = very large effect on patient's life; 21–30 = extremely large effect on patient's life.

Abbreviation: **DLQI** = Dermatology Life Quality Index

Treatment Landscape Across Both Countries: Current PsO Treatments

- Topical steroids remained the most commonly prescribed treatment in both countries (US: 46%; Germany: 29%).
- Use of systemic treatments was limited: oral therapies were reported by 29% of US and 22% of German patients, while injectable therapies were used by 20% and 10%, respectively.
- Despite substantial disease burden, 19% of patients in both countries were not receiving active treatment.

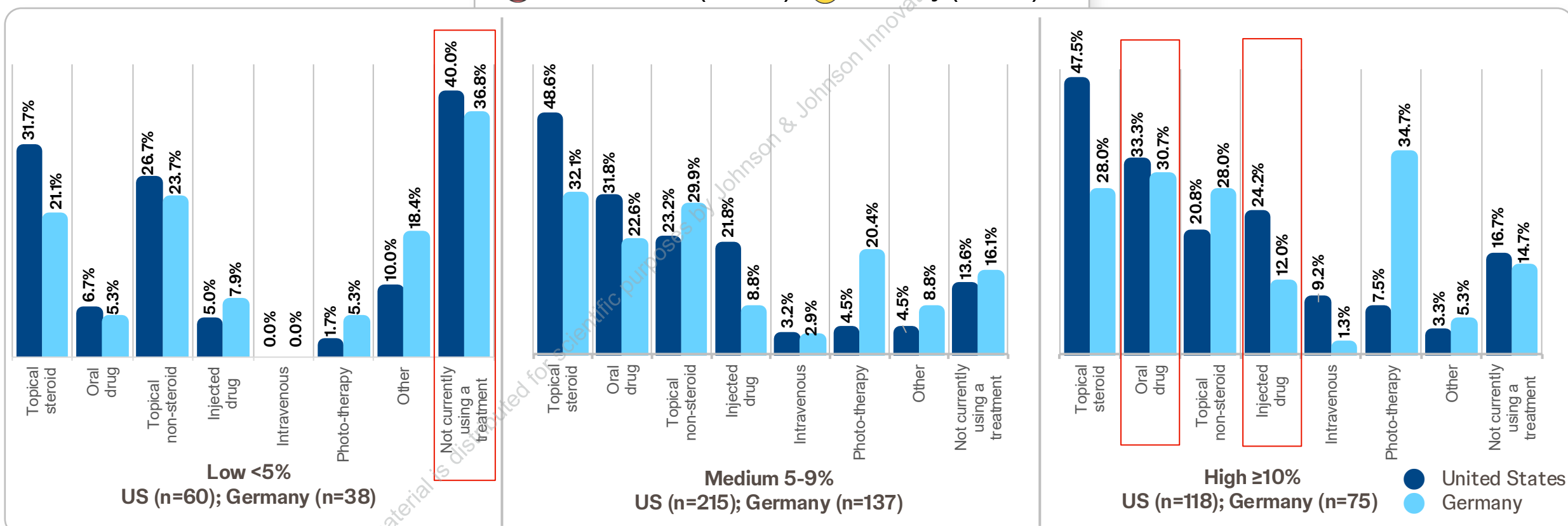
 **United States (N=400)**  **Germany (N=250)**



Treatment Patterns: Current Treatments by BSA%

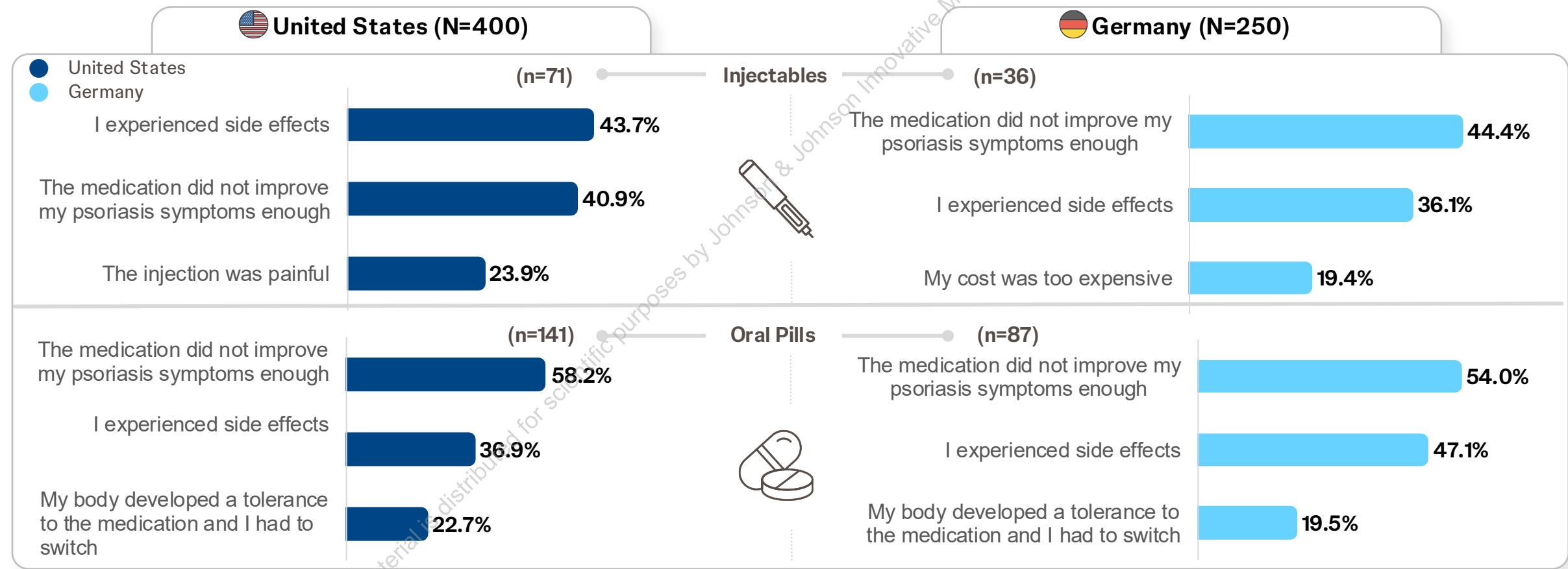
- Topical steroids remained the most common treatment across BSA levels in both countries.
- Systemic treatment use remained limited, even at high BSA levels; fewer than 1/3 used oral therapies and less than 1/4 were on injectables.
- Many low-BSA patients remained untreated, as did approximately 15% with moderate or high BSA.

 **United States (N=400)**
 **Germany (N=250)**



Reasons for Discontinuation: Injectables and Oral Pills

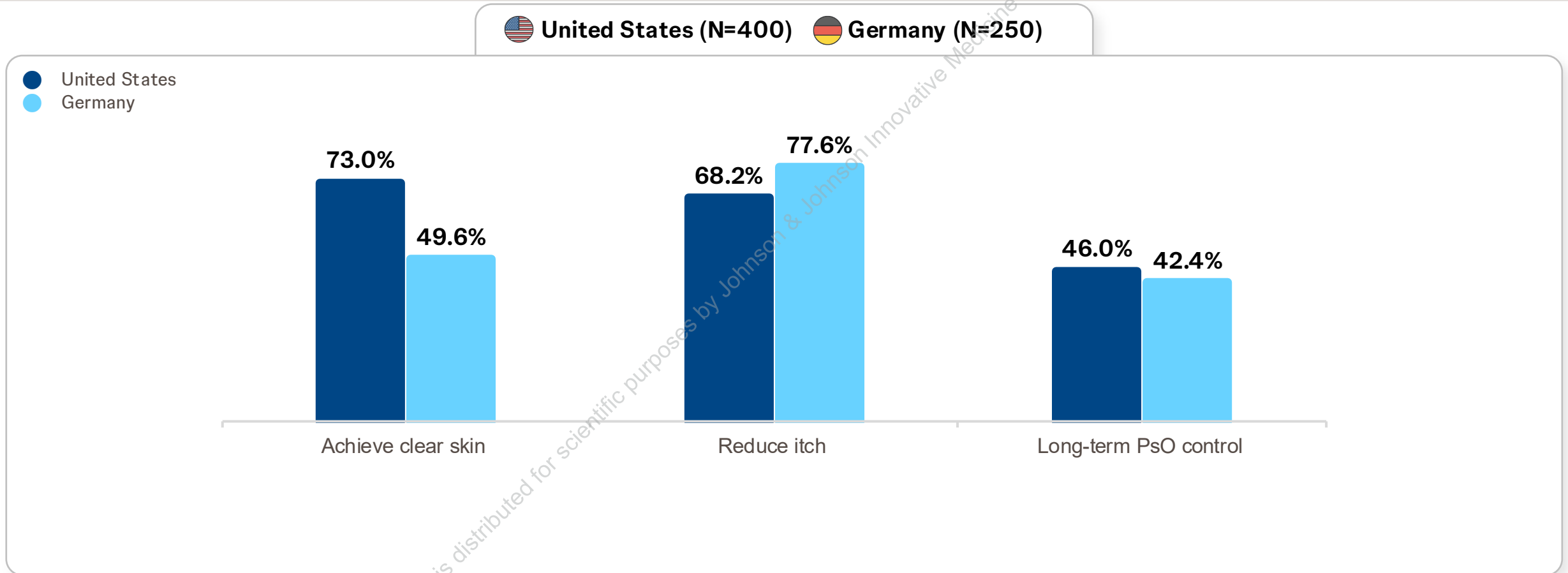
- Reasons for treatment discontinuation were consistent across both countries.
- Injectable discontinuation was primarily driven by side effects and insufficient symptom improvement.
- Oral treatment discontinuation was most often due to insufficient improvement, followed by side effects.



Answers are not mutually exclusive; “select up to three” out of 13 response options for injectables; The top three most frequently selected responses are presented for the treatment category: Injectables and oral pills, Past treatment refers to treatments taken within the previous 5 years (2019–2024).

Treatment Goals: Top Three Priorities Among Adult Patients

- Across both countries, the leading treatment goals were reducing itch, achieving clear skin, and maintaining long-term psoriasis control, although their relative rankings varied.



Answers are not mutually exclusive; “select up to three” out of 9 response options.

Abbreviation: **PsO** = psoriasis

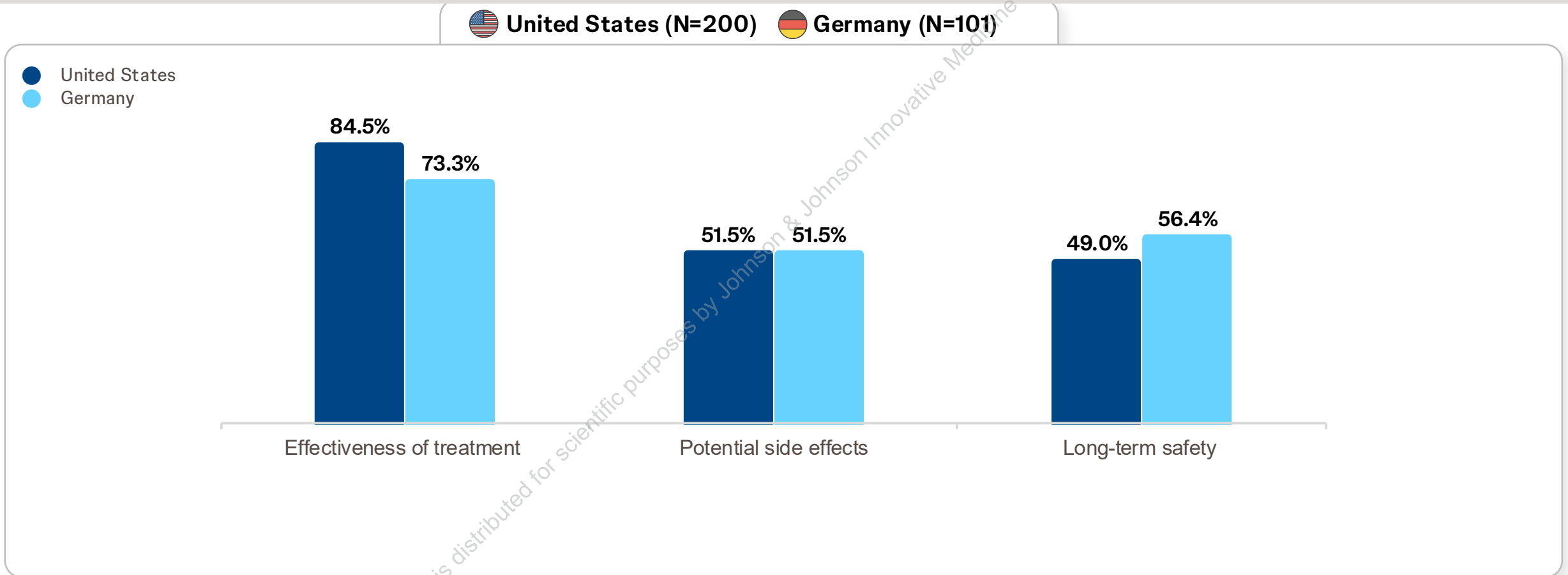
Sociodemographic and Practice Characteristics of HCPs

		 United States (N=200)	 Germany (N=101)
Gender 	Male	96 (48.0%)	58 (57.4%)
	Female	98 (49.0%)	39 (38.6%)
	Prefer not to say*	6 (3.0%)	4 (4.0%)
Type of provider 	Dermatologist	184 (92.0%)	78 (77.2%)
	Rheumatologist/other specialist	--	2 (2.0%)
	General Practitioner	6 (3.0%)	21 (20.8%)
	Physician's Assistant	7 (3.5%)	--
	Nurse Practitioner	3 (1.5%)	--
Years in practice 	0–5 years	60 (30.0%)	11 (10.9%)
	6–10 years	73 (36.5%)	13 (12.9%)
	11–15 years	27 (13.5%)	32 (31.7%)
	16–20 years	14 (7.0%)	23 (22.8%)
	21–25 years	15 (7.5%)	13 (12.9%)
	25+ years	11 (5.5%)	9 (8.9%)

Abbreviation: HCP = healthcare provider

Treatment Selection Priorities: HCPs' Top Three Factors

- HCPs in both countries reported effectiveness as their top consideration when selecting treatment for patients, with the US at 85% and Germany at 73%.



Answers are not mutually exclusive; “select up to three” out of 9 response options.

Abbreviation: **HCP** = healthcare provider

Key Takeaways

- Despite differences in healthcare systems and treatment patterns, patients with PsO in the US and Germany experience a similarly substantial disease burden and persistent unmet treatment needs.



Substantial Disease Burden Across Countries

- Itch was highly prevalent.
- Itch-related sleep disruption and interference with daily activities were common.
- More than half of patients reported a very large to extremely large impact on quality of life.



Persistent Treatment Gaps Across Countries

- Topical steroids remained the most common treatment.
- Systemic treatment use was limited, and 19% of patients remained untreated.
- Insufficient symptom improvement and side effects were the leading reasons for treatment discontinuation.



Cross-country similarities indicate that existing treatment options do not fully address patients' needs, highlighting persistent unmet needs across healthcare systems and shared demand for safe, effective oral PsO treatments.