



## OPEN ACCESS

## EDITED BY

Devinder Mohan Thappa,  
Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate  
Medical Education and Research  
(JIPMER), India

## REVIEWED BY

Irina Khamaganova,  
Pirogov Russian National Research  
Medical University, Russia  
Ben Wang,  
Central South University, China

## \*CORRESPONDENCE

Alexander Egeberg  
alexander.egeberg@gmail.com

## SPECIALTY SECTION

This article was submitted to  
Dermatology,  
a section of the journal  
Frontiers in Medicine

RECEIVED 23 August 2022

ACCEPTED 28 September 2022

PUBLISHED 20 October 2022

## CITATION

Wienholtz NKF, Christensen CE,  
Zhang DG, Rechnagel A-SA,  
Byrnel HVS, Haugaard JH, Ashina M,  
Thyssen JP and Egeberg A (2022)  
Clinical characteristics of combined  
rosacea and migraine.  
*Front. Med.* 9:1026447.  
doi: 10.3389/fmed.2022.1026447

## COPYRIGHT

© 2022 Wienholtz, Christensen,  
Zhang, Rechnagel, Byrnel, Haugaard,  
Ashina, Thyssen and Egeberg. This is  
an open-access article distributed  
under the terms of the [Creative  
Commons Attribution License \(CC BY\)](#).  
The use, distribution or reproduction in  
other forums is permitted, provided  
the original author(s) and the copyright  
owner(s) are credited and that the  
original publication in this journal is  
cited, in accordance with accepted  
academic practice. No use, distribution  
or reproduction is permitted which  
does not comply with these terms.

# Clinical characteristics of combined rosacea and migraine

Nita K. F. Wienholtz<sup>1,2</sup>, Casper E. Christensen<sup>1</sup>,  
Ditte G. Zhang<sup>3</sup>, Anne-Sofie A. Rechnagel<sup>1</sup>,  
Helene V. S. Byrnel<sup>1</sup>, Jeanette H. Haugaard<sup>2</sup>,  
Messoud Ashina<sup>1</sup>, Jacob P. Thyssen<sup>3</sup> and  
Alexander Egeberg<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurology, Danish Headache Center, Rigshospitalet Glostrup, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, <sup>2</sup>Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Hellerup, Denmark, <sup>3</sup>Department of Dermatology, Bispebjerg Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Bispebjerg, Denmark

**Background:** An overlap between the skin disease rosacea and the headache disease migraine has been established; however, the magnitude of this overlap and the distribution between subtypes/phenotypes remains unclear.

**Objective:** The aim was to determine the magnitude of the overlap between rosacea and migraine, and to determine which subtypes/phenotypes were present in patients with concomitant rosacea and migraine.

**Methods:** In this cross-sectional study, 604 patients with a diagnosis of either rosacea or migraine were phenotyped through a face-to-face interview with clinical examination, to determine prevalence and phenotype of rosacea, and prevalence and subtype of migraine.

**Results:** We found a prevalence of migraine of 54% in patients with rosacea, and a prevalence of rosacea of 65% in patients with migraine. Concomitant migraine was significantly associated with the rosacea features flushing (odds ratio = 2.6, 95% confidence interval = 1.4–4.7,  $p = 0.002$ ), ocular symptoms (odds ratio = 2.4, 95% confidence interval = 1.5–3.9,  $p < 0.001$ ), and burning (odds ratio = 2.1, 95% confidence interval = 1.3–3.4,  $p = 0.002$ ), whereas papules/pustules were inversely related with concomitant migraine (odds ratio = 0.5, 95% confidence interval = 0.3–0.8,  $p = 0.006$ ). No association was found between concomitant migraine and centrofacial erythema, rhinophyma, telangiectasia, edema, or dryness. Concomitant rosacea was not associated with any specific migraine subtype in patients with migraine.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights a substantial overlap between rosacea and migraine, particularly in patients with certain rosacea features. Individuals with rosacea should be asked about concomitant migraine, and comorbidities should be considered when choosing between treatments.

## KEYWORDS

rosacea, migraine, interview, prevalence, overlap

## Key points

- There was a substantial overlap between rosacea and migraine, and more than half the patients with rosacea had concomitant migraine.
- Almost half the patients with concomitant migraine were unaware of their migraine diagnosis.
- Some migraine treatments can worsen rosacea, and it is important to consider comorbidities when choosing between treatment options for rosacea.

## Introduction

Rosacea is a common, chronic inflammatory skin disease affecting 5.5% of the adult population (1). Rosacea has been associated with the headache disease migraine which affects up to 20% globally (2, 3). Rosacea and migraine both primarily affect young individuals of Caucasian descent, and are characterized by relapsing episodes of distinct and debilitating symptoms deriving from the trigeminal innervated area (4–7). Common triggers for both rosacea and migraine include physical and mental stress, certain foods and beverages, ultra violet exposure, heat, and cold (7–9), and both diseases have been associated with anxiety and depression, severely affecting quality of life (10–13). While migraine evidently is a neurovascular condition it seems that certain rosacea features such as flushing, and the neurogenic stinging and burning are attributed to neurovascular alteration and upregulation of signaling neuropeptides such as calcitonin-gene-related peptide and pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptide-38 (9, 14–17). Epidemiological and clinical studies have shown a positive association between rosacea and migraine (18–20) although the exact magnitude of the overlap and distribution between subtypes/phenotypes remain unclear.

In this cross-sectional interview study based on face-to-face interview and clinical examination, we aimed to determine the overlap between rosacea and migraine as well as determining whether concomitant rosacea and migraine was associated with certain subtypes/phenotypes or severity of each disease.

## Materials and methods

### Study population and design

This was a cross-sectional study based on interviews and clinical examinations conducted between September

2018 and October 2019. Patients were included into two cohorts and enrollment was based on patients diagnosed with either rosacea or migraine who were managed in tertiary care at one of three University hospitals in Copenhagen, Denmark (Danish Headache Center, Rigshospitalet Glostrup; Department of Dermatology and Allergy, Herlev and Gentofte Hospitals; Department of Dermatology, Bispebjerg Hospital). Details on rationale, design, and study procedures have been published elsewhere (21).

## Patients

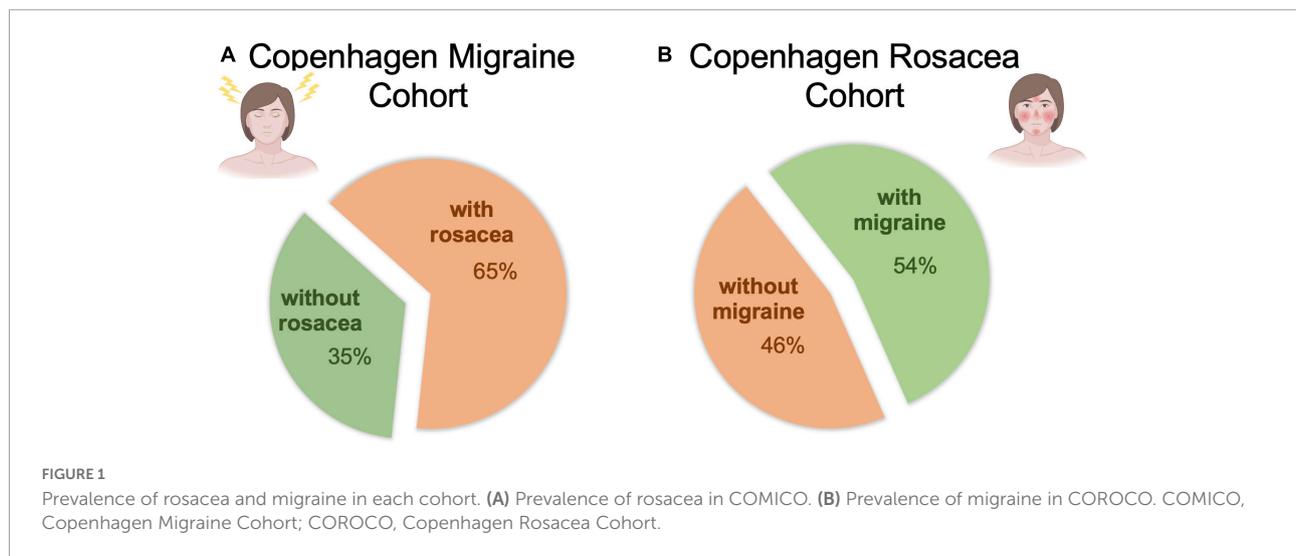
### Migraine diagnosis

Patients with rosacea were included in the *Copenhagen Rosacea Cohort* (COROCO). A semi-structured validated interview (22) (**Supplementary Data Sheet 1**) was used to diagnose and subtype migraine according to the International Headache Classification (4). Migraine diagnosis was defined as at least 5 attacks of headache fulfilling migraine criteria (lifetime prevalence). One-year prevalence was defined as patients fulfilling criteria for lifetime prevalence with *at least* one migraine attack in the past year. Subtype was defined as either migraine *with* or *without* aura. Frequency was collected retrospectively as average migraine attacks per month in the past year (self-reported). Chronic migraine was defined as 15 days of headache or more per month with at least 8 days of migraine and episodic migraine was defined as less than 15 headache/migraine days per month.

### Rosacea diagnosis

Rosacea was diagnosed and phenotyped based on a semi-structured face-to-face interview (**Supplementary Data Sheet 2**) with clinical examination supplemented with clinical photographs (evaluated by three experienced physicians: NKFV, JPT, AE) according to the 2017 updated classification (23). For severity, Investigator's Global Assessment (IGA) (24), Clinician Erythema Assessment (CEA) (25), and the newly developed and validated Rosacea Area and Severity Index [RASI] (*manuscript submitted*) were applied. RASI is an objective index evaluating the four major rosacea features: "erythema, papules/pustules, telangiectasia and phymatous changes" in four facial areas: "cheeks, forehead, nose, chin." Evaluation of features results in a RASI score between 0 and 72. Clear/almost clear (IGA 0) was defined as > 0–3.0 on RASI; Very Mild Rosacea (IGA 1) was defined as 3.1–5.9 on RASI; Mild Rosacea (IGA 2) was defined as 6.0–9.9 on RASI; Moderate Rosacea (IGA 3) was defined as 10.0–19.9 on RASI; Severe Rosacea (IGA 4) was defined as RASI 20.0 or greater. Subtype/phenotyping of rosacea was based on the 2002 and 2017 guidelines (5, 23). Phymatous rosacea was not included in correlation analyses due to

Abbreviations: COMICO, Copenhagen Migraine Cohort; COROCO, Copenhagen Rosacea Cohort; IQR, interquartile range; MA, migraine with aura; MO, migraine without aura; OR, odds ratio; SD, standard deviation.



the overall low number of patients with phymatous rosacea in both cohorts.

## Outcome measures and statistical analyses

This was a cross-sectional study based on two cohorts. Due to difference in distribution of age and sex cohorts were not directly compared. Continuous data were presented as means with standard deviations (SD) or medians with ranges, and categorical data as numbers with percentages. Rosacea phenotype in patients with/without concomitant migraine, and migraine subtype in patients with/without concomitant rosacea were assessed with multivariate logistic regressions adjusted for age, sex, and smoking, and odds ratios (OR) were calculated. All tests were considered statistically significant at  $P$ -value  $< 0.05$ . Statistical analyses were performed in SAS Enterprise Guide 7.1 (SAS Institute Inc.).

## Results

### Patient characteristics

The COROCO included 300 patients with rosacea (203 women and 97 men) with a mean age of 50.2 years ( $SD = 12.9$ ). Prevalence of migraine was 54% (163 patients). Mean age at onset of rosacea was 26.6 years ( $SD = 13.4$  years) and mean age at onset of migraine was 24.3 years ( $SD = 16.3$  years).

The COMICO included 304 patients with migraine (269 women and 35 men) with a mean age of 40.8 years ( $SD = 12.9$ ). Prevalence of rosacea was 65% (196 patients). Mean age at onset

of migraine was 24.0 years ( $SD = 17.3$ ) and mean age at onset of rosacea was 36.7 years ( $SD = 14.6$ ).

For details on enrollment and demographics, see [Figure 1](#), [Supplementary Figure 1](#) and [Supplementary Table 1](#).

## Migraine

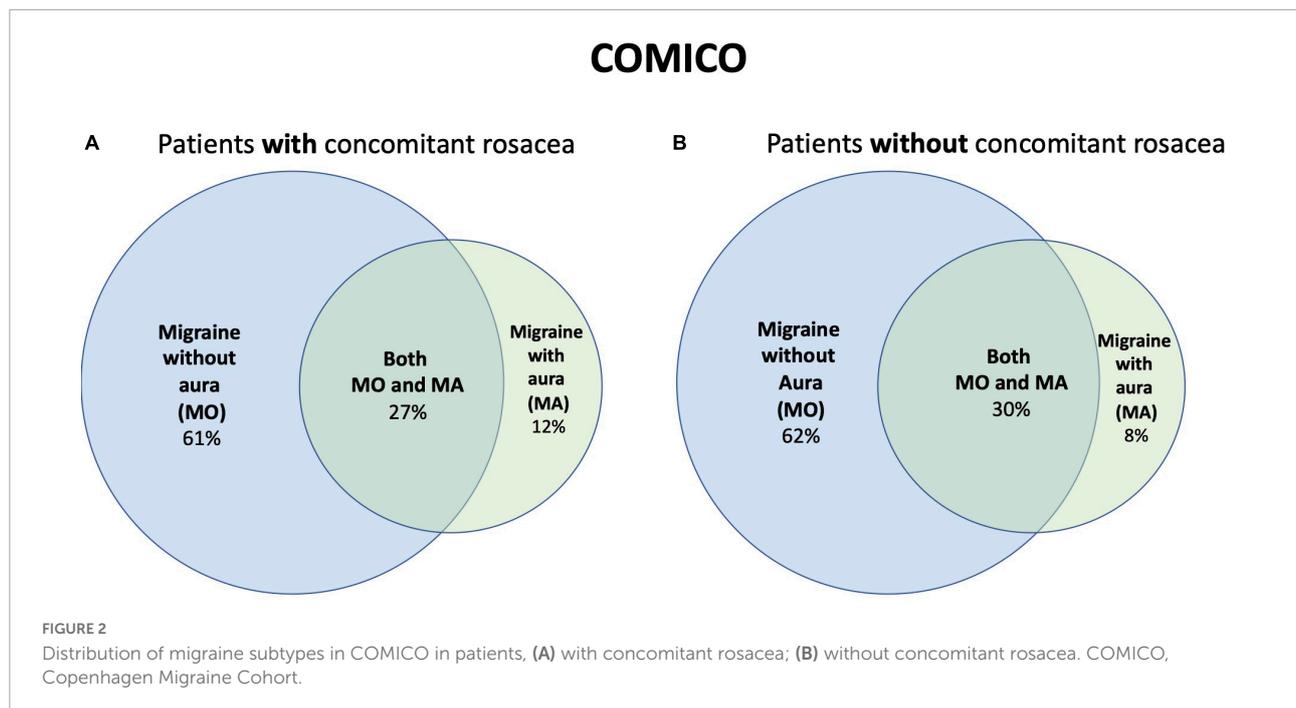
### Prevalence and subtype of migraine

In COROCO, we found an overall prevalence of migraine of 54%, and a 1-year prevalence of 41% (52% in women, 19% in men). The 1-year prevalence peaked at 55% between ages 25 and 54 years for women, whereas prevalence was similar for men at all ages ( $\sim 30\%$ ). Of those with migraine in COROCO, 131 patients (68%) had migraine *without* aura (MO), 61 patients (32%) had migraine *with* aura (MA), and 18% (20% in women, 7% in men) had both MO and MA.

In COMICO, MO was present in 62% (61% in women, 70% in men), MA in 10% (10% in women, 15% in men), and both MO and MA in 28% (30% in women, 15% in men). There was no difference in prevalence of migraine subtypes in patients with/without rosacea in COMICO in adjusted analyses ( $p = 0.20$ ) ([Figure 2](#) and [Supplementary Tables 2, 3](#)).

### Migraine frequency

Of those fulfilling criteria for migraine in COROCO, 25% had not had an attack in the past year, 31% had less than 5 attacks, 25% had between 6 and 24 attacks in the past year, 4% had between 2 and 3 attacks per *month*, and 15% had more than 3 attacks per *month* ([Supplementary Figure 2](#)).



There was no difference in severity of migraine (episodic/chronic migraine) between patients with/without concomitant rosacea in COMICO ( $p = 0.96$ ) (Supplementary Table 3).

## Rosacea

### Prevalence and phenotype of rosacea

In the migraine cohort, COMICO, the overall prevalence of rosacea was 65%. Rosacea prevalence exceeded 60% in women aged 18–54 years, with a drop after this age. For men, prevalence peaked above age 40 years (59%). There was an overlap of features and the most common rosacea feature in COMICO was *fixed centrofacial erythema in a characteristic pattern* (hereafter: *erythema*) (79%), followed by flushing (69%), dryness (59%), ocular symptoms (49%), telangiectasia (45%), burning (38%), papules/pustules (31%), edema (3%), and rhinophyma (1%). When looking at rosacea subtypes, 87% had erythematotelangiectatic rosacea (ETR), 12% had papulopustular rosacea (PPR), 1% had phymatous rosacea (PR), and 48% had ocular rosacea (Figure 3).

In COROCO, erythema was present in 98% (96% in patients with migraine, 99% in patients without migraine), flushing in 80% (72% in patients with migraine, 87% in patients without migraine), telangiectasia in 72% (72% in patients both with and without migraine), dryness was present in 62% (58% in patients with migraine, 66% in patients without migraine), papules/pustules were present in 60% (51% in patients with migraine, 67% in patients without migraine), burning in 60% (50% in patients with migraine, 68% in patients without

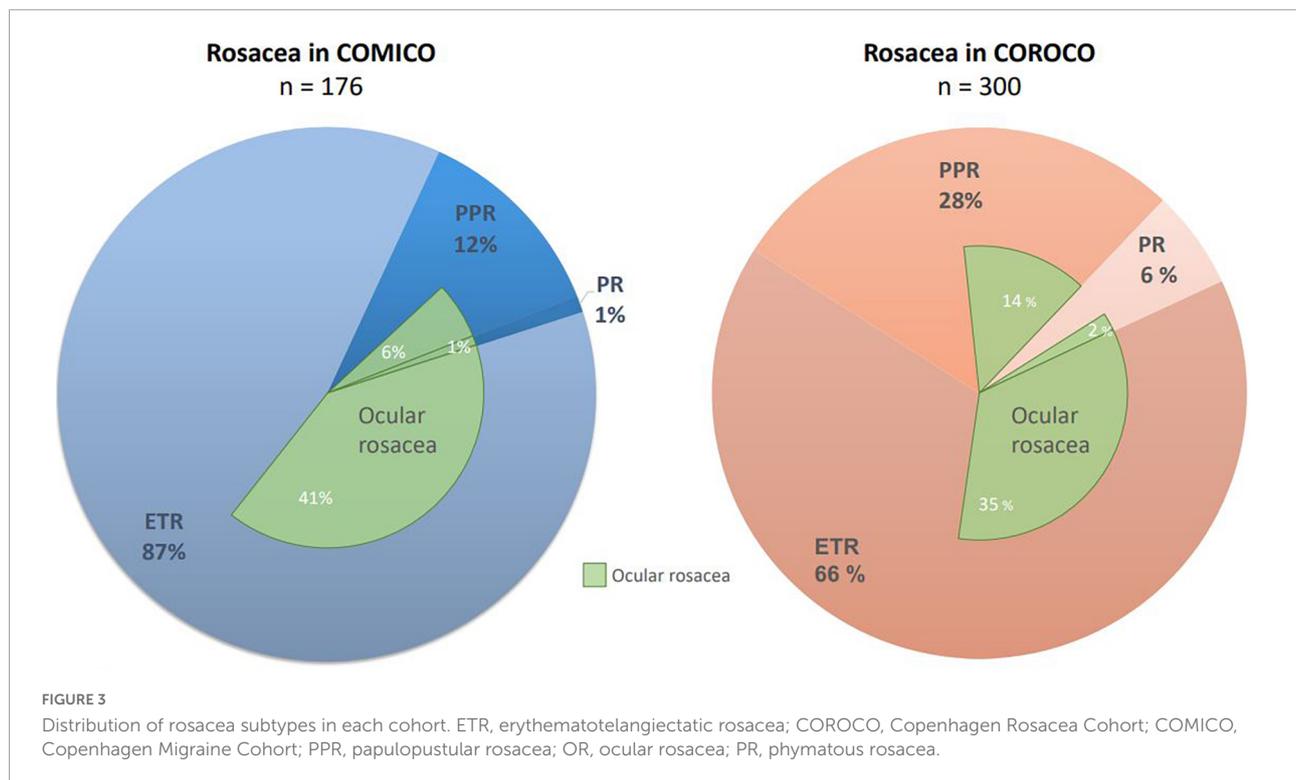
migraine), ocular symptoms were present in 51% (39% in patients with migraine, 61% in patients without migraine), 10% (10% in patients with migraine, 9% in patients without migraine) experienced edema, and 6% (9% in patients with migraine, 4% in patients without migraine) had rhinophyma (Figure 3). In COROCO, 66% had ETR, 28% had PPR, 6% had PR, and 51% had ocular rosacea (Figure 3).

Concomitant migraine was significantly associated with flushing [OR = 2.6, 95% confidence interval (CI) = 1.4–4.7,  $p = 0.002$ ], ocular symptoms (OR = 2.4, 95% CI = 1.5–3.9,  $p < 0.001$ ), and burning (OR = 2.1, 95% CI = 1.3–3.4,  $p = 0.002$ ), and *inversely* related with papules/pustules (OR = 0.5, 95% CI = 0.3–0.8,  $p = 0.006$ ). Concomitant migraine in COROCO was *not* associated with erythema, rhinophyma, telangiectasia, edema, or dryness. For details, see Supplementary Table 5.

### Severity of rosacea

For severity of rosacea, CEA, IGA, and RASI were applied. In COMICO, 22% (23% in women, 21% in men) presented with almost clear rosacea, 55% (53% in women, 69% in men) had mild rosacea, 19% (21% in women, 5% in men) had moderate rosacea, and 4% (3% in women, 5% in men) had severe rosacea. Mean RASI was 10.3 ( $SD = 4.9$ ) for patients with rosacea in COMICO.

In COROCO, mean RASI was 11.3 ( $SD = 5.6$ ) in patients with migraine and 12.5 ( $SD = 6.2$ ) in patients without migraine ( $p = 0.40$ ). There was no difference in severity of rosacea in patients with/without concomitant migraine when looking



at IGA or RASI, but when evaluating CEA we found that concomitant migraine was associated with a higher CEA (mean = 2.41, 95% CI, 2.25–2.57 for patients *with* concomitant migraine, and mean = 1.79, 95% CI, 1.59–1.99 for patients *without* concomitant migraine,  $p < 0.001$ ).

For overview of rosacea severity in both cohorts, see [Supplementary Table 4](#). Severity of migraine (chronic migraine) was not associated with a higher RASI score when adjusted for age, sex and smoking in COROCO ( $p = 0.09$ ).

## Dermatology life quality index

In COROCO, mean dermatology life quality index (DLQI) was 3.0 ( $SD = 3.9$ ) for those *without* migraine and 4.2 ( $SD = 4.8$ ) for those *with* migraine ( $p = 0.04$ ), although the difference was not significant when adjusted for age, sex, and smoking ( $p = 0.68$ ). For patients *with* rosacea in COMICO, mean DLQI was 2.3 ( $SD = 3.1$ ) compared with 1.1 ( $SD, 1.8$ ) for patients *without* rosacea. The difference was significant when adjusting for age, sex, and smoking ( $p < 0.001$ ). For overview of DLQI in cohorts, see [Supplementary Table 4](#).

## Discussion

In these well-characterized hospital-based cohorts of patients with migraine or rosacea, we demonstrated a substantial

overlap between the two diseases. More than 60% of the patients in the migraine cohort presented with rosacea features, and more than half of the patients in the rosacea cohort had migraine. Concomitant migraine was significantly associated with the rosacea features flushing, ocular symptoms and burning, and inversely related with papules/pustules. No association was found with erythema, rhinophyma, telangiectasia, edema, or dryness. No association was found between subtype of migraine and severity of rosacea in adjusted analyses.

## Migraine

### Prevalence of migraine in patients with concomitant rosacea

Migraine is the leading cause of disability in under 50s leading to sick days and hugely affecting quality of life (2). In the rosacea cohort, COROCO, more than half of the patients had migraine, and 41% had had an attack in the past year. The lower 1-year prevalence of migraine in COROCO probably reflected the relatively high mean age in COROCO as migraine often improves after menopause (7). Although we did not include a control group, migraine in the background population has previously been extensively studied. Global prevalence of migraine (lifetime) is reported between 15 and 20% (3) and a recent cross-sectional study in *European* countries found a gender-adjusted 1-year prevalence of 35%, with a peak

between ages 30–40 years for men, and 20–60 years for women (26), which is consistent with the findings in our cohorts. Interestingly, a recent meta-analysis found an OR of 1.96 (95% CI = 1.41–2.72) for migraine in patients with rosacea compared with the background population (20). One study has also found the use of triptans to be associated with a slightly higher risk of incident rosacea in 53,927 females aged 60 years or older (OR 1.66, 95% CI = 1.30–2.10) (27). Authors of the latter study proposed that triptan use (vasoconstrictors) might *provoke* rosacea onset. However, we recently found experimentally induced rosacea features (erythema, flushing, and facial edema) to be *attenuated* by the anti-migraine drug sumatriptan (28). Further, a patient with severe attacks of rosacea flushing displaying migraine-like characteristics (general malaise, light-sensitivity, but without headache, lasting 2–3 days) was effectively treated with oral sumatriptan (29). This suggests that triptans may instead prove beneficial in rosacea, and that previous data could indicate a pathophysiological and/or genetic overlap between the two (20).

Interestingly, in COROCO, 40% of the patients with migraine were unaware of their diagnosis (unrecognized migraine). This implies that migraine is still largely underdiagnosed and undertreated. In comparison, in a Danish population-based twin study, unrecognized migraine was reported at 24% (22). A reason for the high proportion of unrecognized migraine could be that patients with rosacea in COROCO anecdotally reported their migraine headaches lower on numerical pain rating scales or with milder associated symptoms, although this information was not systematically collected.

The most common subtype of migraine in both cohorts was MO consistent with previous data (30). MA has previously been reported at 30% in Danish patients with migraine (30). The prevalence in our cohorts was slightly higher (38%) possibly due to a more thorough interview of symptoms. In COMICO, severity and subtype of migraine was unrelated to prevalence, severity, and subtype of rosacea.

## Rosacea

### Prevalence and severity of rosacea in patients with concomitant migraine

A recent German study found a rosacea prevalence of 2.1% in both sexes. Prevalence increased with age, peaking at 5.7% for individuals aged 60–70 years (31). In the background population prevalence of rosacea ranged between 0.1 and 22.4% with an overall prevalence of 5.5% (1). In our migraine cohort, COMICO, almost two thirds of the patients had rosacea, and an additional 26% of those *without* rosacea reported to be frequent flushers. Flushing—in lack of other rosacea features—has been associated with a high prevalence of migraine (18). Interestingly, flushing is reported in 42% of patients with rosacea and 16% in

healthy controls, and flushing has been suggested to be a sign of pre-rosacea (32, 33).

Of those fulfilling criteria for rosacea, 81% were unaware of this (unrecognized rosacea) consistent with previous population-based studies finding rosacea to be largely unrecognized and underdiagnosed (34, 35). Unrecognized rosacea was associated with mild features in 77% (women: 75%, men: 92%), moderate features in 19% (women: 21%, men: 0%) and severe features in 4% (women: 3%, men: 8%), indicating that unrecognized rosacea was not exclusively associated with low disease burden, but rather unawareness of rosacea as a diagnosis.

## Rosacea phenotype

Erythema was the most common feature in COMICO, followed by flushing, dryness, and ocular symptoms. This is consistent with a recent Danish population-based study which found concomitant migraine to be associated with the previously used ETR and ocular subtypes of rosacea (19). The patients who did not present with erythema either presented with phymatous changes, and/or by having at least two major rosacea features. Almost 1/3 of the patients were currently being treated (either locally or systemically) for their rosacea which may have also “masked” current features. A recent meta-analysis looked at the distribution of subtypes in patients with rosacea and found the most common subtype to be ETR (pooled proportion = 56.7%, 95% CI, 51.4–62.0%), followed by papulopustular rosacea (pooled proportion = 32.2%, 95% CI, 38.8–47.6%), ocular rosacea (pooled proportion = 11.1%, 95% CI, 6.7–16.3%) and phymatous rosacea (pooled proportion = 7.4%, 95% CI, 6.1–8.9%) (36). Migraine has been consistently associated with dry eye disease in population-based studies (37–42), although it has not been explored whether this dry eye disease might in fact be ocular rosacea. It is unclear what drives the correlation between migraine and ocular rosacea. High levels of proinflammatory markers as well as toll-like receptor 4 and human peptide LL-37 have been found in tears of patients with ocular rosacea (43) although it is not clear whether this indicates a connection with ocular rosacea or rather severity of inflammation, as we found concomitant migraine to be associated with higher CEA.

Presence of papules/pustules was inversely associated with concomitant migraine. Previous studies on the connection between migraine and rosacea have not been consistent in reporting subtypes/phenotypes, and only *one* small cross-sectional study has suggested a connection between migraine and papules/pustules (previously papulopustular rosacea) (44).

Rhinophyma was very uncommon in COMICO, although no significant differences were found between patients

with/without concomitant migraine in COROCO. No studies have previously connected rhinophyma and migraine.

The pathophysiology behind both rosacea and migraine remains incompletely understood, but both have been associated with increases in neuropeptides such as calcitonin gene-related peptide and pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptide (20, 45–47). Interestingly, infusion of pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptide-38 can induce both migraine and rosacea in humans (28, 48). Monoclonal antibodies against pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptide are currently being developed, and monoclonal antibodies against calcitonin gene-related peptide were recently approved for preventive treatment of migraine (7). It could be speculated whether antibodies against these neuropeptides might also prove beneficial in rosacea. Indeed, monoclonal antibodies against calcitonin gene-related peptide are currently being tested in rosacea ([Clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04419259) NCT04419259).

Furthermore, preventive treatment against migraine includes calcium channel blockers and riboflavin, which have been associated with an increased risk of incident rosacea/worsening of rosacea features (49) whereas beta blockers and sumatriptan, which are also used in the acute and preventive treatment of migraine may prove beneficial in rosacea (29, 49). Conversely, isotretinoin, which is used in rosacea treatment, is commonly associated with non-migraine headache (50), and it could be important to consider common side effects when choosing between treatment options in both rosacea and migraine.

## Strengths and limitations

There are several strengths in our cohorts. First, we conducted face-to-face interviews in a large population of patients—in terms of interview studies. A validated questionnaire was used for diagnosis of migraine. For rosacea, diagnosis was made during the interview and confirmed by clinical examination, supplemented with clinical photographs evaluated by experienced physicians.

Limitations include risk of recall bias as data were collected retrospectively, and the age and sex- difference between cohorts. The age difference could have affected prevalence of rosacea in the migraine cohort negatively, as rosacea usually affects individuals aged 30 years or above compared with a debut at 20–30 years for migraine (23, 51, 52). Although both rosacea and migraine are common in women, a recent review shows that the sex distribution in patients with rosacea is almost equal, whereas migraine remains most common in women (1, 7). Furthermore, we did not include any clinical tests for evaluating ocular symptoms, and these features may have been overestimated. For migraine, severity was only reported as episodic or chronic migraine, and it could be relevant to investigate headache pain severity in the future. Another

limitation was the lack of a control group although prevalence of both diseases in the background population has previously been thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, patients were recruited from specialized tertiary clinics, investigating only those with a high burden of disease. In line with this, there was a risk of selection bias, as patients identifying with one of the diseases might be more prone to participate; however, the overall lack of research in rosacea seemed to be enough motivation for patients with rosacea, and the relatively short duration of the interviews (1 h) seemed short enough for patients with migraine to be willing to remain at the clinic following their out-patient visit.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we found a strong co-occurrence of rosacea and migraine. Concomitant migraine was associated with flushing, ocular symptoms, and burning, and inversely associated with papules/pustules severity of rosacea. Concomitant migraine was associated with more severe erythema but with subtype or severity of migraine. The causal relationship between rosacea and migraine is unclear and would require follow up studies as well as genetic and experimental studies to uncover a possible pathophysiological link. Many patients were unaware of their concomitant disease with a risk of undertreatment or inappropriate treatment in patients, resulting in a high physical and psychological burden. Our findings highlight the need to consider comorbidities in these patients and the need for a multidisciplinary approach toward management of both diseases.

## Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in this study are included in the article/[Supplementary material](#), further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author/s.

## Ethics statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Ethical Committee of the Capital Region of Denmark. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

## Author contributions

NW, CC, MA, JT, and AE: conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, methodology, resources, supervision, and validation. NW and MA: funding acquisition and project administration. NW, DZ, A-SR, and HB: investigation. NW,

CC, and MA: software and visualization. NW, MA, JT, and AE: writing—original draft preparation. All authors: writing—review and editing.

## Funding

This study was supported by grants from Novo Nordisk Foundation (NNF170C0029698) and Augustinus Foundation (17-2523). The funding bodies had no influence on the design and conduct of the study, data collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of the data, nor on preparation, review, or approval of the manuscript, or decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

## Acknowledgments

AE had full access to all the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis. We especially want to thank all participants for agreeing to participate in the interviews. We also want to thank all staff members at Rigshospitalet Glostrup and Gentofte Hospital who have aided in making the study possible, as well as the department of Dermatology and Wound Healing at Bispebjerg hospital for contributing to this study.

## Conflict of interest

NW has acted as an invited speaker for Novartis and received a travel grant from the Kgl Hofbundtmager Aage Bang Foundation. CC has received personal fees from Teva and serves as a consultant for Teva. MA has received consulting fees and advisory boards fees from Alder, Allergan, Amgen, Eli Lilly,

Lundbeck, Novartis, and Teva; fees for serving as a principal investigator, paid to his institution, from Alder, Allergan, Amgen, Electro-Core, Eli Lilly, Lundbeck, Novartis, and Teva; and grant support, paid to his institution, from Novo Nordisk Foundation, Novartis, and Lundbeck Foundation. JT has been an advisor, investigator, and speaker for Abbvie, Pfizer, LEO Pharma, Sanofi-Genzyme, Eli Lilly & Co., and Regeneron. He has received grants from Sanofi-Genzyme and Regeneron. AE has received research funding from Pfizer, Eli Lilly, the Danish National Psoriasis Foundation, and the Kgl Hofbundtmager Aage Bang Foundation and honoraria as consultant and/or speaker from Almirall, Leo Pharma, Samsung Bioepis Co., Ltd. Pfizer, Eli Lilly & Co., Novartis, Galderma, Dermavant, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

## Publisher's note

All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

## Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmed.2022.1026447/full#supplementary-material>

## References

- Gether, L, Overgaard L, Egeberg A, Thyssen J. Incidence and prevalence of rosacea: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Br J Dermatol.* (2018) 179:282–9. doi: 10.1111/bjd.16481
- Steiner TJ, Stovner LJ, Vos T, Jensen R, Katsarava Z. Migraine is first cause of disability in under 50s: will health politicians now take notice? *J Headache Pain.* (2018) 19:17–20. doi: 10.1186/s10194-018-0846-2
- Stovner LJ, Nichols E, Steiner TJ, Abd-Allah F, Abdelalim A, Al-Raddadi RM, et al. Global, regional, and national burden of migraine and tension-type headache, 1990–2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. *Lancet Neurol.* (2018) 17:954–76. doi: 10.1016/S1474-4422(18)30322-3
- Olesen J, Bendtsen L, Dodick D, Ducros A, Evers S, First M, et al. Headache classification committee of the international headache society (IHS) the international classification of headache disorders, 3rd edition. *Cephalalgia.* (2018) 38:1–211. doi: 10.1177/0333102417738202
- Wilkin J, Dahl M, Detmar M, Drake L, Liang MH, Odom R, et al. Standard classification of rosacea: report of the National Rosacea Society Expert Committee on the classification and staging of rosacea. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* (2002) 46:584–7. doi: 10.1067/mjd.2002.120625
- Steinhoff M, Schmelz M, Schaubert J. Facial erythema of rosacea – Aetiology, different pathophysiologies and treatment options. *Acta Derm Venereol.* (2016) 96:579–89. doi: 10.2340/00015555-2335
- Ashina M. Migraine. *N Engl J Med.* (2020) 383:1866–76. doi: 10.1056/NEJMra1915327
- Kelman L. The triggers or precipitants of the acute migraine attack. *Cephalalgia.* (2007) 27:394–402. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-2982.2007.01303.x
- Steinhoff M, Urgen Schaubert J, Leyden JJ, Schaubert J, Leyden JJ. New insights into rosacea pathophysiology: a review of recent findings. *J Am Acad Dermatol.* (2013) 69(6 Suppl. 1):15–26. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2013.04.045
- Moustafa F, Lewallen R, Feldman S. The psychological impact of rosacea and the influence of current management options. *J Am Dermatol.* (2014) 71:973–80. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2014.05.036

11. Egeberg A, Hansen PR, Gislason GH, Thyssen JP. Patients with rosacea have increased risk of depression and anxiety disorders : a danish nationwide cohort study. *Dermatology*. (2016) 232:208–13. doi: 10.1159/00044082
12. Bewley A, Fowler J, Schöfer H, Kerrouche N, Rives V. Erythema of rosacea impairs health-related quality of life: results of a meta-analysis. *Dermatol Ther*. (2016) 6:237–47. doi: 10.1007/s13555-016-0106-9
13. Ashina M, Katsarava Z, Do TP, Buse DC, Pozo-rosich P, Özge A, et al. Migraine : epidemiology and systems of care. *Lancet*. (2021) 397:1485–95. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32160-7
14. Lassen L, Haderslev P, Jacobsen V, Iversen H, Sperling B, Olesen J. CGRP may play a causative role in migraine. *Cephalalgia*. (2002) 22:54–61. doi: 10.1046/j.1468-2982.2002.00310.x
15. Ashina M, Hansen JM, Dunga BO, Olesen J. Human models of migraine-short-term pain for long-term gain. *Nat Rev Neurol*. (2017) 13:713–24. doi: 10.1038/nrneuro.2017.137
16. Schwab VD, Sulk M, Seelinger S, Nowak P, Aubert J, Mess C, et al. Neurovascular and neuroimmune aspects in the pathophysiology of rosacea. *J Invest Dermatol Symp Proc*. (2011) 15:53–62. doi: 10.1038/jidsymp.2011.6
17. Scharshmidt T, Yost J, Truong S, Steinhoff M, Kc W, Berger T. Neurogenic rosacea: a distinct clinical subtype requiring a modified approach to treatment. *Arch Dermatol*. (2011) 147:123–6. doi: 10.1001/archdermatol.2010.413
18. Tan SG, Cunliffe WJ. Rosacea and migraine. *Br Med J*. (1976) 1:21. doi: 10.1136/bmj.1.6000.21
19. Egeberg A, Ashina M, Gaist D, Gislason GH, Thyssen JP. Prevalence and risk of migraine in patients with rosacea: a population-based cohort study. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. (2017) 76:454–8. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2016.08.055
20. Christensen CE, Andersen FS, Wienholtz N, Egeberg A, Thyssen JP, Ashina M. The relationship between migraine and rosacea: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Cephalalgia*. (2018) 38:1387–98. doi: 10.1177/0333102417731777
21. Wienholtz NKF, Christensen CE, Haugaard JH, Zhang DG, Ashina M, Thyssen JP, et al. Cohort profile : COpenhagen ROSacea COhort (COROCO) and COpenhagen MIGraine COhort (COMICO). *BMJ Open*. (2020) 10:e039445. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-039445
22. Gervil M, Ulrich V, Olesen J, Russell MB. Screening for migraine in the general population: validation of a simple questionnaire. *Cephalalgia*. (1998) 18:342–8. doi: 10.1046/j.1468-2982.1998.1806342.x
23. Gallo RL, Granstein RD, Kang S, Mannis M, Steinhoff M, Tan J, et al. Standard classification and pathophysiology of rosacea: the 2017 update by the National Rosacea Society Expert Committee. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. (2018) 78:148–55. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2017.08.037
24. Tan J, Almeida L, Bewley A, Cribier B, Dlova N, Gallo R, et al. Updating the diagnosis, classification and assessment of rosacea: recommendations from the global ROSacea COnsensus (ROSCO) panel. *Br J Dermatol*. (2017) 176:465–71. doi: 10.1111/bjd.15173
25. Tan J, Liu H, Leyden JJ, Leoni MJ. Reliability of clinician erythema assessment grading scale. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. (2014) 71:760–3. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2014.05.044
26. Steiner TJ, Stovner LJ, Katsarava Z, Lainez JM, Lampl C, Lanteri-minet M, et al. The impact of headache in Europe : principal results of the Eurolight project. *J Headache Pain*. (2014) 15:31. doi: 10.1186/1129-2377-15-31
27. Spoendlin J, Voegel JJ, Jick SS, Meier CR. Migraine, triptans, and the risk of developing rosacea: a population-based study within the United Kingdom. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. (2013) 69:399–406. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2013.03.027
28. Wienholtz NKF, Christensen CE, Coskun H, Zhang DG, Ghanizada H, Egeberg A, et al. Infusion of pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating polypeptide-38 in patients with rosacea induces flushing and facial edema which can be attenuated by sumatriptan. *J Invest Dermatol*. (2021) 141:1687–98. doi: 10.1016/j.jid.2021.02.002
29. Wienholtz NKF, Ashina M, Thyssen JP, Egeberg A. Subtype-Specific off-label treatment of rosacea. *Case Rep Dermatol*. (2021) 13:121–8. doi: 10.1159/000511984
30. Russell MB, Rasmussen BK, Thorvaldsen P, Olesen J. Prevalence and sex-ratio of the subtypes of migraine. *Int J Epidemiol*. (1995) 24:612–8. doi: 10.1093/ije/24.3.612
31. Hilbring C, Augustin M, Kirsten N, Mohr N. Epidemiology of rosacea in a population-based study of 161,269 German employees. *Int J Dermatol*. (2021) 61:570–6. doi: 10.1111/jid.15989
32. Abram K, Silm H, Maaros H, Oona M. Risk factors associated with rosacea. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. (2010) 24:565–71. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-3083.2009.03472.x
33. Berg M, Lidén S. An epidemiological study of rosacea. *Acta Derm Venereol*. (1989) 69:419–23.
34. Tan J, Schöfer H, Araviiskaia E, Audibert F, Kerrouche N, Berg M. Prevalence of rosacea in the general population of Germany and Russia – the RISE study. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. (2016) 30:428–34. doi: 10.1111/jdv.13556
35. Tizek L, Schielein MCC, Seifert F, Biedermann T, Böhner A, Zink A. Skin diseases are more common than we think: screening results of an unreferral population at the Munich Oktoberfest. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol*. (2019) 33:1421–8. doi: 10.1111/jdv.15494
36. Barakji YA, Rønnstad ATM, Christensen MO, Zachariae C, Wienholtz NKF, Halling A, et al. Assessment of frequency of rosacea subtypes in patients with rosacea: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Dermatol*. (2022) 158:617–25. doi: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2022.0526
37. Wang T, Wang I, Hu C, Lin H. Comorbidities of dry eye disease : a nationwide population-based study. *Acta Ophthalmol*. (2012) 90:663–8. doi: 10.1111/j.1755-3768.2010.01993.x
38. Koktekir BE, Celik G, Karalezli A, Kal A. Dry eyes and migraines : is there really a correlation ? *Cornea*. (2012) 31:1414–6. doi: 10.1097/ICO.0b013e318247ec2a
39. Yang S, Kim W, Kim HS, Na K. Association between migraine and dry eye disease : a nationwide population-based study association between migraine and dry eye disease : a nationwide population-based. *Curr Eye Res*. (2017) 42:837–41. doi: 10.1080/02713683.2016.1262876
40. Shetty R, Deshpande K, Jayadev C, Wadia K, Mehta P, Shroff R. The impact of dysfunctional tear films and optical aberrations on chronic migraine. *Eye Vis*. (2017) 4:25. doi: 10.1186/s40662-017-0070-1
41. Kostev K. Association between migraine headaches and dry eye disease in patients studied in general practices in Germany. *JAMA Ophthalmol*. (2020) 138:223. doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2019.5106
42. Ismail OM, Poole ZB, Bierly SL, Buren ED, Lin F, Meyer JJ, et al. Association between dry eye disease and migraine headaches in a large population-based study. *JAMA Ophthalmol*. (2020) 137:532–6. doi: 10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2019.0170
43. Rodrigues-braz D, Zhao M, Yesilirmak N, Aractingi S, Behar-cohen E, Bourges J-L. Cutaneous and ocular rosacea : common and specific physiopathogenic mechanisms and study models. *Mol Vis*. (2021) 27:323–53.
44. Ramelet A. Rosacea: a reaction pattern associated with ocular lesions and migraine? *Arch Dermatol*. (1994) 130:1448. doi: 10.1001/archderm.1994.01690110118022
45. Grant AD, Gerard NP, Brain SD. Evidence of a role for NK1 and CGRP receptors in mediating neurogenic vasodilatation in the mouse ear. *Br J Pharmacol*. (2002) 135:356–62. doi: 10.1038/sj.bjp.0704485
46. Starr A, Graepel R, Keeble J, Schmidhuber S, Clark N, Grant A, et al. A reactive oxygen species-mediated component in neurogenic vasodilatation. *Cardiovasc Res*. (2008) 78:139–47. doi: 10.1093/cvr/cvn012
47. Seeliger S, Buddenkotte J, Schmidt-Choudhury A, Rosignoli C, Shpacovitch V, Von Arnim U, et al. Pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide: an important vascular regulator in human skin in vivo. *Am J Pathol*. (2010) 177:2563–75. doi: 10.2353/ajpath.2010.090941
48. Schytz HW, Birk S, Wienecke T, Kruuse C, Olesen J, Ashina M. PACAP38 induces migraine-like attacks in patients with migraine without aura. *Brain*. (2009) 132:16–25. doi: 10.1093/brain/awn307
49. Rezakovic S, Mokos Z, Pastar Z. Drug-induced rosacea-like dermatitis. *Acta Dermatovenereol Croat*. (2016) 24:49–54.
50. FDA. *Isotretinoin (marketed as Accutane) Capsule Information*. IPLEDGE Update. Maryland, MA: FDA (2018).
51. Burch RC, Buse DC, Lipton RB. Migraine: epidemiology, burden, and comorbidity. *Neurol Clin*. (2019) 37:631–49. doi: 10.1016/j.ncl.2019.06.001
52. Tan J, Berg M. Rosacea: current state of epidemiology. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. (2013) 69(6 Suppl. 1):S27–35. doi: 10.1016/j.jaad.2013.04.043