



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

CAN DERMOSCOPY SERVE AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL IN DERMATOPHYTOSIS? A PILOT STUDY.

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Introduction: Dermoscopy has been shown to be a useful tool in assisting the noninvasive diagnosis of various general dermatological disorders.

Objective: The purpose of the study was to describe the dermoscopic findings in various dermatophytosis.

Materials and Methods: This cross-sectional study included 100 clinically diagnosed tinea infections of skin, hair and nails which were evaluated using a dermoscope.

Results: Among 100 patients of dermatophytosis, 69 were males and 31 females. The maximum number of patients were having tinea corporis, followed by tinea cruris and tinea capitis. Dermoscopic findings noted in cases of tinea corporis included diffuse erythema, follicular micropustules and brown spots surrounded by a white-yellowish halo, broken hair, wavy hair and rarely morse code hair. Dermoscopy of tinea capitis depicted comma hairs, corkscrew hairs, zigzag hairs and morse code hairs. Proximal jagged edge, spikes and longitudinal striations were present in the cases of onychomycosis. Dermoscopy of tinea incognito yielded morse code hairs, follicular micropustules and easily deformable hairs that look weakened and transparent and show unusual bends.

Conclusion: Dermoscopy can be used as a fast, inexpensive and non-invasive diagnostic tool to enhance diagnosis of cutaneous fungal infections.

