



DERMOSCOPY AND SKIN IMAGING

DERMOSCOPIIC FEATURES OF COMMON DERMATOLOGICAL DISORDERS AMONG RURAL CHILDREN IN SOUTH EASTERN NIGERIA

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Introduction: The dermoscope has gained popularity in Western countries as a veritable tool to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis and disease management. Not much is known about the role of dermoscopy in dark skinned populations of Sub-Saharan Africans as a diagnostic tool.

Objective: To evaluate the dermoscopic features of common skin problems among rural children in South Eastern Nigeria.

Design: A cross sectional study of pupils and students of a rural community was carried out during a hospital initiated community based outreach program.

Study site: The study was conducted at a primary school in Uburu, Ebonyi State in July 2018.

Results: One hundred and eighty-eight children were seen, 107 males and 81 females. Age range was from 1 year 6 months to 16 years with majority between 3 to 12 years. The prevalence of dermatological disorder was 50.5%; while the commonest disorder was tinea capitis alone (45/95) or coexisting with other skin disorders (56/95), this was followed by pityriasis versicolor which occurred in 12 of the 95 with dermatological disorder. Dermoscopic features of tinea capitis were scales, crusts, corkscrew hairs, comma hairs and alopecia; while in pityriasis versicolor there were diffuse hypopigmented patches with satellite lesions.

Conclusion: Dermoscopic features of common skin problems in rural children in South Eastern Nigeria were comparable with those reported in western medical literature.

