



EPIDEMIOLOGY

A STUDY OF MORTALITY IN DERMATOLOGY IN A TERTIARY CARE CENTRE

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Introduction & Objectives: Dermatology is a field which is believed to have a very low mortality rate. However, recent data suggests an increase in the global burden of deaths due to skin diseases. Certain dermatological conditions are associated with a lethal outcome if not managed timely. The aim of the study was to estimate the number of deaths occurring due to dermatological conditions at a tertiary care centre over a period of 10 years.

Materials & Methods: It is a retrospective record based observational study involving 39 patients spanning over a period of 10 years (2006-2017) in the department of dermatology in a tertiary care centre.

Results: The total number of cases analysed were thirty-nine. Out of which 22 were females and 17 were males. Majority of the deaths occurred in the age group of 41-60 years. In our study, 44.7% of the patients died due to drug reactions which comprised of Steven Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis, followed by vesiculobullous disorders and infections with 8 deaths (21%) in each category. Two patients had vasculitis and the other three died due to anaphylactic reaction. The cause of death in majority of the patients was shock followed by cardio-respiratory arrest.

Conclusions: This study elaborates the various skin conditions which are associated with lethal outcomes and the various factors which are responsible for deaths in such patients. Moreover, it highlights the fact that a prompt diagnosis and an intensive care treatment can reduce such complications.

Conflict of interest: No conflicts of interest.

