



EPIDEMIOLOGY

## LICHEN PLANUS IN CHILDHOOD: REPORT OF 18 CASES

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**Background:** Lichen planus (LP) is a common itchy disorder. However, it is rarely described during childhood.

**Objective:** The aim of our study was to assess the epidemiological, the clinical and the therapeutic features of LP among pediatric population

**Material and methods:** We conducted a retrospective study of children (ages 0–18 years old) with LP over a 13-year period (2005 à 2018). Histopathological examination confirmed the diagnosis in all cases. We noted the clinical and therapeutic characteristics.

**Results:** The incidence of LP in the pediatric population in our study was estimated at 1.3 new cases / year. There were 18 children (12 boys, 6 girls). Sex ratio was two. The mean age was 14 years (5–18 years). Cutaneous lesions were seen in all cases. No cases of oral mucosa or nails involvement were detected. Thirteen patients (81%) reported itching. None of our patients had family history of LP, associated liver disease, history of medication intake or recent vaccination against HBV preceding the onset of LP. LP pigmentosus was the most common form (44 %), followed by classic LP (33.3 %), follicular LP (16.6%) and verrucous LP (5.55%). Extensive forms accounted for 11.11%. The trunk was affected in 38.88% of cases. Lower extremities were affected in 22% of cases. Simultaneous involvement of upper and lower extremities was found in 11.11%. Scalp was involved in one case (5.5%). Moderate-to high-potency topical corticosteroids were used in all patients, only quarter of whom had excellent response.

**Conclusion:** In most studies, the genders were equally affected, whereas in our study, boys outnumbered girls. The association between LP and chronic liver disease is frequently described. However, it was not noted in our study. LP pigmentosus was the most common form in our study. The treatment was essentially based on topical corticosteroids with partial improvement.

