



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

CLINICAL AND MYCOLOGICAL PROFILE OF DERMATOPHYTOSES AND ITS THERAPEUTIC IMPLICATIONS- A STUDY

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Introduction: Fungal infections have become rampant in our country in the past few years and are getting increasingly difficult to treat. Recognition and appropriate treatment of these infections reduces morbidity and lessens the possibility of transmission and recurrence.

Objective: The aim of our study was to determine the incidence of dermatophytoses and commonest species of dermatophytes in patients attending the skin OPD in a hospital in a period of one year, thereby instituting effective management and preventing resistance to antifungals.

Materials and Methods: A total of 300 patients, clinically having dermatophytoses were included in the study and samples were taken from the infected area of the skin and appendages and KOH examination and culture studies were carried out. The incidence of various subtypes in different age and sex groups was also noted.

Results: The most common clinical type was tinea corporis (30.66%) & most common species was *Trichophyton rubrum* (72.31%). Of all the specimens 70% were KOH positive and 65% of cases were culture positive. Other species like *T. violaceum*, *M. canis*, *T. mentagrophytes*, *E. floccosum*, *T. soudanense*, *M. gypseum* were also identified. 21 – 30 yrs of age group was the commonest age group affected and males were more commonly affected. Comparative analysis with other studies have shown the rise in *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* as the causative organism.

Conclusion: The study signifies the importance of mycological examination in the diagnosis of various mycoses for their effective management. Promotion of public health care and self hygiene play an important role to control this disease especially in tropical countries. It is of utmost importance to make the patients aware about steroid misuse for treatment of fungal infections. This leads to recurrence and prolonging of these infections thereby reducing the quality of life of the patient due to the intense itching.

