



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

## CUTANEOUS SPOROTRICHOSIS: A GROWING EPIDEMIC OF ZONOTIC TRANSMISSION IN JOHOR, MALAYSIA

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**Background:** Sporotrichosis is a subacute to chronic infection caused by the dimorphic fungus *Sporothrix schenckii*, classically transmitted via traumatic inoculation through decaying wood, plants and soil. In the recent years, zoonotic transmission is increasingly reported, mostly associated with cats.

**Objective:** We aim to study the clinical characteristics of cutaneous sporotrichosis and the significance of zoonotic transmission of sporotrichosis from cats to humans.

**Methodology:** This is a retrospective study of all cases of cutaneous sporotrichosis diagnosed in 2 district hospitals in Johor from July 2016 to June 2018.

**Results:** Thirty-three cases of cutaneous sporotrichosis were identified. Eleven cases were diagnosed from July 2016-June 2017, whereas 22 cases in July 2017-June 2018. In 29 cases (87.9%), patients recalled a history of cat exposure/scratch/bite. Of this number, fourteen patients (51.9%) reported that the cats whom they had contact with were sick. Lymphocutaneous sporotrichosis was observed in 27 cases (81.8%), followed by 6 cases of fixed cutaneous sporotrichosis (18.2%). All patients tolerated oral itraconazole and were successfully treated after a mean duration of 93.5 (IQR: 40.0) days.

**Conclusion:** Cat contact was the commonest causal factors for cutaneous sporotrichosis. Animal and human health policies need to be engaged to reduce zoonotic transmission of sporotrichosis.

