



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

DERMATOPHYTOSIS IN PAEDIATRIC AGE GROUP- A VEXING AND ADVANCING TREND- A CLINIC EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND MYCOLOGICAL STUDY

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Introduction: Dermatophytes are worldwide in distribution and dermatophytosis is a common problem in developing countries. It can occur in both sexes and all ages but the diseases are more common in school children. This study attempted to determine the prevalence and etiological agents of dermatophytic infections of hair, skin and nail among children in central part of Karnataka, India.

Methods: It is a cross-sectional descriptive study conducted for a duration of 8 months (January to August 2018). A cross-sectional study was conducted on 200 children. Skin scrapings, hair samples, and nail clippings were collected from children who showed dermatophytosis. All specimens were subjected to physical examination, microscopic (Koh) examination and culture. The children responded to questions from a structured questionnaire that was prepared to elicit socio economic and demographic data from the participants.

Results: Out of 200 cases male (112), female (88) with the mean age being 13 ± 3.9 , with majority of the cases were of the type Tinea cruris (32%) followed by T. corporis (21%), T. capitis (17%) and onychomycosis (14%). KOH was positive in 59% of patients. Family history was positive in 59% of patients. H/O steroid application was positive in 63% of patients and 30% gave a positive history of pets at home.

On culture, the most common isolated organism was Trichophyton Rubrum and T. mentagrophytes (8%) followed by Aspergillus (6%), T. tonsurans, M. canis, E. floccosum (4%) and 60% of cultures showed no growth.

Conclusion: The prevalence of dermatophyte infection among children is high. There is need for health education and public awareness campaigns among the communities on healthy seeking behaviors and hygiene and prevention of steroid abuse by buying over the counter medication in order to reduce transmission, resistance and severe clinical manifestations.

