



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

## **SPECTRUM OF SKIN CONDITIONS AT A PRIVATE TERTIARY HOSPITAL, IN KAMPALA UGANDA**

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**Introduction:** Skin diseases are a common presentation in outpatient clinics. Knowing the epidemiology of skin disorders allows for proper planning and budget allocation. Skin disorders in Uganda receive less attention in terms of resource allocation because they are not considered to be a significant cause of mortality like maternal and child health related problems, but can cause significant morbidity. Specialty dermatology services at tertiary health care institutions in Uganda are few with paucity of epidemiological data.

**Methodology:** Assessment of all patients' records attending the skin clinic between January 2016 and December 2016 at an outpatient department at International Hospital Kampala, a private tertiary hospital was done. Only first time clinic visits were included and follow up visits for the same condition/s were excluded. The diagnoses were majorly clinical by skin examination and where necessary, laboratory blood investigations and/or a skin biopsy for histology were carried out for confirmation. The various skin conditions were described as proportions and with graphs. Statistical analysis was done with SPSS version 21 and excel.

**Results:** There were a total of 1112 visits and of these 954 were first time visits. Males were 50.4% and females 49.6%. The commonest skin presentations were infections (n=411, 43.1%) followed by eczematous (n=246, 25.8%, adnexial (n=168, 17.6%), infestations & bites (n=69, 7.2%), pigmentary (n=67, 7.0%), papulosquamous (n=65, 6.8%), neoplasms (most benign) (n=54, 5.7%), urticaria and /or angioedema (n=41, 4.3%), pruritus (n=39, 4.1%), genodermatoses (n=37, 3.9%). In the infections, fungal infections predominated (n=212, 22.2%), bacterial infections (n=101, 10.6%) and viral infections (n= 98, 10.3%).

**Conclusion:** Skin infections were the commonest skin disorder at International Hospital Kampala, Uganda; followed by eczematous and adnexial disorders. Skin conditions should receive the needed attention because they are a common concern with associated morbidity most especially psychological co-morbidities.

**Keywords:** Skin diseases, Sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda.

