

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

THE MENACE OF RECALCITRANT FUNGAL INFECTIONS – A STUDY. MAN VS. FUNGUS CHALLENGES!

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INTRODUCTION: Clinical, microbiologic, primary and secondary resistance to common antifungal agents in dermatophytosis has increased alarmingly throughout the world. In contradistinction to clinical resistance, proven microbiologic resistance to antifungals is a rarity. So, management of dermatophytosis is completely chaotic, largely by self-proclaimed authorities. Combining oral antifungals and multidrug treatment is encouraged by drug market with unproven evidences.

AIM : To study, evaluate and investigate clinically, epidemiologically, microbiologically the various reasons for recalcitrant tinea in patients attending tertiary care hospital.

Materials and Methods: 2410 patients treated by many dermatologists in private clinics and hospitals with recalcitrant tinea were investigated from October 2017 to September 2018. All previous investigations and treatments given to them, the compliance of the patients to treatment protocols, age, sex, occupation, personal and family hygiene, pollution level in and around their living and working places, number of persons affected in the family were studied. Potassium hydroxide mounts were taken for microscopy and culture from the site and away. Strains identified.

RESULTS: Tinea corporis and Tinea cruris constituted 75% of all dermatophytosis.

Trichophyton mentagrophytes was isolated in 85% of the culture followed by T. rubrum, Microsporum audouinii and candida.

DISCUSSION: Most practitioners did not do the basic test as potassium hydroxide mount, fungal cultures, strain isolation and susceptibility studies.

Longer treatment, higher dosages, topical steroid-antifungal combinations created a favourable milieu for local immunosuppression and gene mutation.

Lack of adherence and ad libitum treatments were factors in vivo resistance to antifungals.



Patients stopped treatment on their own within some days of as steroid combinations resolved the lesions and repeated as they desired which culminated in the growth of the most resistant strains.

My talk will highlight the menace of steroid abuse, my proposed guidelines and multicentric epidemiologic survey to establish the prevalence of fungal isolates before the fungus takes a pandemic role.

