



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

## **TINEA CAPITIS IN FAMILIES – A QUALITATIVE PILOT STUDY ON ADHERENCE AND PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

*P Lindsø Andersen<sup>(1)</sup> - Gbe Jemec<sup>(1)</sup> - Dm Saunte<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Department Of Dermatology, Zealand University Hospital, Roskilde, Denmark; Health Sciences Faculty, University Of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark., Department Of Dermatology, Roskilde, Denmark<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Introduction:** Tinea capitis (TC) is a dermatophyte infection mainly affecting prepubertal children with varying degrees of inflammation. It is especially important to treat children with anthropophilic infections as they may cause epidemics. Treatment of TC requires an extensive regimen including oral antifungal therapy combined with adjuvant topical antifungals. Antifungal shampooing is recommend to family members to prevent infection. Bed linen, clothing, hairbrushes etc. need disinfection. Previous studies on adherence in paediatric populations suggest reduction in treatment complexity to increase adherence. Psychosocial impact of TC has not been studied from the parent's perspective.

**Objective:** To investigate adherence to treatment of TC from the perspective of parents and the psychosocial implications experienced from their point of view.

**Methods and Material:** Semi structured interviews with parents to children diagnosed with TC were performed, recorded, transcribed and analysed by a research assistant. Interviews varied in length from thirty minutes to an hour.

**Results:** A total of five parents were interviewed from four different families. In one family the parents were divorced and interviewed separately. In general, families were adherent to oral antifungal therapy, but adherence to antifungal shampoo among family members and disinfection of bed linen/clothing varied.

Children complained about stinging sensations from shampooing, and caregivers questioned its effectiveness and hence did not use it. Caregivers did not report economics as a reason for non-adherence. Informants reported a diagnostic delay due to lack of knowledge on TC by their general practitioners (GP). Caregivers were concerned about their children being bullied by their peers.

**Conclusions:** Preliminary results of this study suggests that adherence to oral therapy is prioritised rather than antifungal shampoo. Many factors including family structures, e.g. divorce or many children in the household may affect adherence to treatment. Main





concerns were related to children's well-being and GP's knowledge about TC.

