



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

TINEA INCOGNITO: A CASE SERIES

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Background: The "tinea incognito" is a mycosis caused by dermatophytes whose appearance has been modified by the wrong use of corticosteroids topically applied due to an incorrect diagnosis or by the patient's initiative or taken systemically for other pathologies. These clinical forms are becoming more and more frequent; this is perhaps also due to a greater tendency of the general population to avoid medical consultation. The locally applied steroids attenuate the pruritic symptomatology and modify the inflammatory response, giving rise to dermatoses with an often bizarre morphology and not simple diagnosis even if followed by an expert dermatologist.

Observation: We described 25 recent cases of "tinea incognita" caused by different etiologic agents. All the patients presented aspecific and doubtful morphology. In these cases cultural exam showed the presence of various microorganisms: *Cladosporium* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., *Candida Guilliermondii*, etc ... Some of this fungi are not usually responsible of cutaneous mycosis. All the patients were treated with topical and systemic antimycotic agents that led to the resolution of the clinical frame.

Key message: Nowadays is very frequent to encounter lesions of bizarre morphology in patients who used topical steroids in an improper way as auto medication. The clinician should limit the prescription of topical steroids as first line therapy in dubious cases and always execute a cultural exam in order to confirm diagnosis and then start an antimycotic therapy.

