

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

## WHITE PIEDRA IN PEDIATRIC POPULATION. EXPERIENCE OF 11 CASES.

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**Background:** White Piedra (WP) of the hair is a rare superficial mycosis caused by *Trichosporon* spp. It is asymptomatic and affects the hair at the level of the stem as white to light brown nodules, soft whitish firmly attached to frontal, occipital, and parietal scalp hair. The main etiological agents are: *Trichosporon inkin*, *Trichosporon ovoides*, *Trichosporon cutaneum*. To present our clinical-mycological and therapeutic experience of eleven pediatric cases.

**Observation:** A retrospective study of WP of thirteen years was carried out. All cases underwent a clinical history and the diagnosis was checked by the following tests: Wood's light. Hair was taken for direct exams with KOH (10%) and cotton blue and some parasitized hairs were performed scanning electron microscopy (Jeol® microscope, model JSM-5300); cultures in Sabouraud-dextrose agar with and without antibiotics. The cultures were confirmed by micromorphology and confirmed by two methods: assimilation of carbohydrates (VITEK® 2YST ID-card) and by protein identification with MALDI-TOF MS system (Vitek-MS®). The treatment was based on ketoconazole (2%) shampoo for 1-2 months. The principal demographic data were: youngest: 7 year-old; oldest: 14 years-old, average: 9.18. Gender: female: 11 (100%); Occupation: scholars & students: 11 (100%); location: head hairs: 11 (100%). Predisposing factors: Long hair: 11 cases; curly hair: 6 cases; excess of humidity: 8 cases. Mycological data: Multiple white nodules (concretions) 11 (100%). KOH: microscopic nodules or concretions formed by multiple arthroconidia and hyphae 11 (100%). Etiological agents: *Trichosporon inkin* 10 (90.90%); *Trichosporon ovoides* 1 (9.09%). Treatment response: Ketoconazole shampoo (2%): 11 cases (100%) achieved clinical & mycological cure.

**Key message:** The WP, is a rare fungal infection, which affects more the head hairs, our main etiological agent was *Trichosporon inkin* (90.9%). All of the cases were in school-age girls and presented hairs concretions with conidia.