



NAIL DISORDERS

DERMATOPHYTE ONYCHOMYCOSIS IN CHILDREN OF LESS THAN 7 YEARS OF AGE IN MONTREAL, CANADA: A 19-YEAR REVIEW.

D Marcoux⁽¹⁾ - M Stanciu⁽²⁾

*Sainte-justine University Medical Center, Pediatric Dermatology, Montreal, Canada⁽¹⁾ -
University Of Montreal, Medicine, Montreal, Canada⁽²⁾*

Background: Tinea unguium (T.unguium) in children under 7 years old is understudied and often goes undiagnosed.

Objectives: We determined the clinical characteristics associated to T.unguium developing in children before age 7 and evaluated treatment adequacy.

Method: Demographic and clinical data from medical records of children with T.unguium were retrieved retrospectively (2000 to 2018) at an academic pediatric hospital.

Results: Sixty children, with a male to female ratio of 1.2:1, developed T.unguium before age 7. At onset of lesions and at presentation at our center, children under 5 years of age represented 73.6% and 43.6% of patients respectively, suggesting a delay in appropriate management. T.unguium was due to *Trichophyton rubrum* (T.rubrum) in 96.7%, most often with nail plate discoloration (63.8%). Of the 52 patients for whom we had the information, 77% had a family history of tinea pedis and/or onychomycosis. Treatment prescribed by the pediatric dermatologist at initial presentation was adequate in 79.7% of patients.

Conclusion: In young children, T.unguium is due to T. rubrum in almost all cases and parental infection is usually present. Diffusing a greater awareness of the occurrence of onychomycosis in this age group should narrow down the delay between onset of infection and diagnosis.

