



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

CUTANEOUS MANIFESTATIONS IN CHILDREN PRESENTING TO A PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT-A STUDY FROM INDIA

Dr.parthiban Udayakumar⁽¹⁾ - Dr.renu George⁽¹⁾

Christian Medical College, Department Of Dermatology, Venereology And Leprosy, Vellore⁽¹⁾

Introduction : There is a paucity of published studies on the prevalence, spectrum and clinical outcomes of dermatological conditions presenting to the paediatric emergency department (PED).

Objective : To study 1) the clinical profile of skin manifestations in children presenting to the PED and 2) to assess the impact of skin lesions on the clinical outcome of admitted patients.

Methods : A cross sectional study was conducted in a tertiary care hospital in India from August 2015 to July 2016 (1 year). All patients ≤ 16 years with primary dermatological complaints or skin lesions secondary to systemic involvement were recruited after examination by the primary investigator. Basic demographic data, salient dermatologic findings, systemic symptoms and relevant laboratory investigations were noted. Hospitalized patients were followed up till discharge.

Results : 24324 consultations in PED were screened, of whom 203(0.83%) fulfilled the inclusion criteria. Mean age was 4.88 ± 4.04 years and majority (43.84%) were in the age group of 1 to 5 years. The diagnostic categories noted were inflammatory disorders (n=102, 50.24%) like urticaria (n=45, 22.16%), vasculitis (n=9, 4.43%), erythema multiforme (n=5, 2.46%), DRESS syndrome (n=4, 1.97%), seborrheic dermatitis (n=4, 1.97%) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (n=3, 1.47%) followed by infections (n=91, 44.82%), disorders of epidermal differentiation (n=4, 2%) and connective tissue disorders (n=2, 1%). 45/203 (22.16%) patients were hospitalized of whom 37.77% (n=17) were due to infections, mainly staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome and suspected viral infections which was significantly higher during summer months. 25/45(55.55%) had associated SIRS. The mean age of hospitalized patients was significantly higher (6.11 years) than those children who were not hospitalized (4.44 years). The mortality among hospitalized patients was 0.9%.

Conclusions : This study provides data on the clinical profile and outcome of dermatological problems encountered in a paediatric emergency department in a developing country.

