



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

## PITYRIASIS ROSEA: A PEDIATRIC CASE SERIES

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**Background:** Pityriasis rosea (PR) is an acute, self-limiting erythematous squamous eruption, associated with the reactivation of the human herpes virus (HHV) 6 and 7. There is a paucity of published data on pediatric PR.

**Objective:** To analyze the clinical characteristics of pediatric PR.

**Materials and Methods:** In this retrospective case series, data were collected on all patients  $\leq 12$  years old with diagnosis of PR, diagnosed from 2015 through 2017 in outpatient department of pediatric dermatology at tertiary care hospital. Diagnosis was primarily clinical, supported by relevant investigations.

**Results:** There were 16 patients, mean age 7.53 (range 1,5-11,5) years diagnosed with PR. History of preceding pharyngitis or respiratory tract infection was seen in 8 cases, and two patient had history of atopic dermatitis. Drug rash was the most frequent provisional diagnosis ( $n = 6$ ) followed by tinea (5), and scabies (2). The most common type of PR in our study was classical type (6), followed by papular PR (4), inverse PR (2), and PR with multiple herald patches (2). We observed pityriasis circinata et marginata of Vidal with facial involvement and localized unilateral PR (one case each). The most common aggravating factors were sunlight and excessive washing. Itching was present in about half of the patients. Systemic therapy was used in six cases: antihistamine (6), acyclovir (2), corticosteroids (1 case). The most common reason for systemic treatment was generalized eruption (4) and pruritus (6). The mean duration of the disease was 5.7 weeks (range 3-10 weeks).

**Conclusion:** PR remains a challenging skin disease to diagnose in the pediatric population. Thus, we observed that the majority of patients in our series (10 out of 16 patients, i.e. 62,5%) had atypical manifestation. Larger series are needed to confirm our observation.

