ABSTRACT BOOK
ABSTRACTS

24TH WORLD CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY
MILAN 2019

A new ERA for global Dermatology
10 – 15 JUNE 2019
MILAN, ITALY

PRURITUS

PRURITUS IN ELDERLY-CLINICO-ETIOLOGICAL STUDY AND ITS IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE

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BACKGROUND: Various epidemiological surveys done in geriatric dermatoses convey that pruritus is the most common problem in elderly. Ultimate determination of cause of common complaint of pruritus remains a diagnostic dilemma and a challenge for any dermatologist. Though problems associated with skin affect only one organ, but can influence psychosocial status, social interactions, daily activities and quality of life of patient. A comprehensive understanding of various presentations, causes and appropriate management options is therefore essential.

AIM: Clinical and etiological assessment of pruritus in elderly and its impact on quality of life

MATERIALS AND METODS: Patients aged above 65 years complaining of itching presenting to the dermatology and geriatric outpatient department were included. Detailed history was noted and relevant blood investigations, skin biopsy were done when necessary. Dermatology life quality index(DLQI) was assessed in all patients by a Finlay DLQI questionnaire.

RESULTS: Total of 432 patients were diagnosed. Majority were common among 65-75(65.7%)years(p<0.05). Males(66.9%) outnumbered females(p<0.05). Majority were from urban area(59.7%). The most common diagnosis was xerosis(12.5%) followed by dermatophytosis(10%),drug induced pruritus(7.6%), allergic contact dermatitis(5.8%),asteotic eczema(4.9%). According to DLQI, pruritus had extremely large effect on quality of life in (2.3%), significantly large effect in (43.3%)(p value-0.03), moderate in (36.6%),mild in(17.4%) patients.

CONCLUSION :This study highlights the problem of pruritus in elderly and its impact on quality of life. Patients have to be evaluated thoroughly to identify the cause and has to be managed effectively.

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