



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

## ASSESSING THE VALIDITY OF THE DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR SCABIES AND INVESTIGATING COMPLICATIONS OF SCABIES IN SURABAYA, INDONESIA

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**Introduction:** Scabies is a common, pruritic skin condition caused by the ectoparasite *Sarcoptes scabiei*. In addition to pruritus and rash, scabies can have severe consequences because of secondary bacterial infections. The diagnosis of scabies is usually made clinically which can be difficult because of the variable presentation and lack of a reliable diagnostic test. The International Alliance for the Control of Scabies (IACS) developed scabies diagnostic guidance which require validation.

**Aims:** Evaluate the validity of the IACS Diagnostic Criteria for Scabies (DCS) in patients presenting to the outpatient department of a large teaching hospital in Surabaya. We also investigated rates of scabies-associated bacterial infections and the impact the condition had on patients' lives.

**Methods:** A prospective case-control study in patients with pruritic skin conditions attending the Dermatology Clinic at Dr Soetomo Hospital between June-August 2018 was conducted. We compared routine diagnoses of scabies and other pruritic skin conditions by one clinician with diagnoses made by another blinded clinician using the DCS. Diagnoses of secondary bacterial infections were also noted. Scabies patients' Dermatology Life-Quality Index (DLQI) questionnaire scores were compared before and after treatment with 5% permethrin cream.

**Results:** 97 individuals were enrolled in the study. 64 patients were diagnosed with scabies and 33 had other pruritic skin conditions. All 64 scabies patients were correctly identified by the DCS. 15/64 (23.4%) patients had confirmed scabies, 38/64 (59.4%) had clinical scabies and 11/64 (17.2%) suspected scabies. No patients with other itchy skin conditions were misdiagnosed by the DCS. 42/64 (65.6%) scabies patients had secondary bacterial infections. At baseline the mean DLQI score of scabies patients was 20.83±3.78. The





reduction in mean scores was 6.78 post-treatment.

**Conclusions** The DCS was shown to be a valid tool to identify scabies patients. Topical treatment was associated with a moderate improvement in health-related quality of life.

