



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

CHANGE IN PATTERN AND BURDEN OF SKIN DISEASE AFTER MASSIVE FLOODING IN NEPAL

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Introduction: Nepal was hit by worst rains in 15 years that started in August in 2017. It caused severe flooding in the terai land with huge impact on livelihood food security and health of affected population.

Objective: This was a study conducted in a regional hospital to compare the burden and pattern of skin disease before and after flooding.

Materials and Method: This study was conducted in the department of dermatology of regional hospital. It was a retrospective study of patients attending dermatology outpatient clinic 5 months after flooding between August and December 2017 and compared with patient population in same 5 months previous year 2016 when there was no flooding.

Results: Total no of patients during study period was 15860 which was 48% increase compared to previous year. Male (59%) with female (41%). Age distribution was 35% in forties, 30% thirties, 16% twenties. Infectious diseases constituted 59% in post flooding compared to 38% previous dry year. Similarly non infectious disease constituted 41% in post flooding compared to 62% in the previous year. Superficial fungal infection constituted 55% of all infectious disease of which tinea cruris accounted for 50% of it in the post flooding. Contact dermatitis was the most common (32%) of non infectious disease.

Conclusion: There was massive surge in no of skin patients post flooding especially with superficial fungal infection giving a tinea epidemic like situation. Moisture dampness and perineal rainfall for weeks with hot and humid conditions and not to forget to mention the use of over the counter fixed drug combination topicals has added to the misery.

