



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

SKIN DISORDERS AMONG ETHIOPIAN CHILDREN

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Introduction: Children in many low and middle-income countries have an increased risk of serious illness and death, primarily from acute infectious diseases, often in association or preceded by cutaneous manifestation as dry skin, thin, shrunken arms, thighs, and buttocks with redundant skin folds and particularly aggressive skin infections.

Objective: Skin disorders are an important problem in children living in developing countries. However, only few epidemiologic investigations on pediatric dermatoses are available in literature. The aim of the study is to calculate the prevalence of skin conditions in a sample of Ethiopian children aged 0-18 years, and to determine the distribution and frequency of dermatological disorders according to gender and age.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was performed on 22,509 medical records of children aged 0-18 years attending the Italian Dermatological Centre (IDC) from January the 1st 2005 to December 2011.

Results: 25,510 visits were recorded. Infections and infestations accounted for the 42% of the disorders seen. Among infectious diseases, fungal infections were the most common (44.1%), followed by bacterial and parasitic diseases. Dermatophytoses were the most frequent fungal infections (85.2%), particularly tinea capitis (75.3%). Impetigo (91.5%) was the most common bacterial disease and scabies (72.6%) the most common parasitic infection. Molluscum contagiosum (47.8%) and viral wart (42.6%) were the most common viral infections. Dermatitis (contact and atopic dermatitis) constituted the second most common diagnostic category (25.2%). Atopic dermatoses, insect bite and impetigo were mostly concentrated in the earlier age classes, while dermatophytosis was more frequently observed in children aged 1 to 10 years ($P < 0.01$).

Conclusions: Most of the disorders observed could be easily managed in clinical practice with appropriate skill development. Thus, it is crucial both to ensure that training in dermatology of medical students and pediatricians focuses on accurate recognition, diagnosis and management of these common skin diseases.

