TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

THE PREVALENCES OF COMMON INFECTIOUS SKIN DISEASES IN THE BIJAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, GUINEA-BISSAU

T Sammut [1] - E Teixeira Da Silva Cassama [2] - M Gomes Cabral [2] - C Roberts [1] - A Last [1] - M Marks [1] - S Walker [1] - A Goncalves [1]

London School Of Hygiene And Tropical Medicine, Faculty Of Infectious And Tropical Disease, London, United Kingdom [1] - Ministério De Saúde Publica, Ministério De Saúde Publica, Bissau, Guinea - Bissau [2]

Introduction: Scabies, impetigo, dermatophytosis, and tungiasis are very common and treatable diseases globally, which left untreated, may lead to morbidity and important sequelae in children. Prevalence of these diseases remains inadequately investigated in Guinea-Bissau.

Objective: To obtain prevalence data on common infectious skin diseases including scabies, impetigo, tinea capitis and tinea corporis amongst children in the Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau.

Methods: Two population based cross-sectional prevalence surveys were conducted in the wet and dry seasons of 2018. Data from the dry season were collected from randomly selected villages across 6 islands in the archipelago. For logistical reasons, the wet season data were collected from all villages on the most populous island Bubaque. Trained investigators examined participants' skin and data were collected using the Open Data Kit platform.

Results: Wet season: 486 participants aged 1-15 years were recruited. Prevalences were: tinea capitis 20.6%, impetigo: 8.6%, tinea corporis: 8.4%, scabies: 1.7%, tungiasis: 0%. 94% had 1 diagnosis, 6% had 2 diagnoses, 1% had 3 diagnoses. 47% of participants were female, 53% were male.

Dry season: 1062 participants aged 0-9 years were recruited. Prevalences were: tinea capitis 14.5%, impetigo: 7.7%, tinea corporis: 7.9%, scabies: 5.3%, tungiasis: 0.8%. 83% had 1 diagnosis, 14% had 2 diagnoses, and 3% had 3 diagnoses. 52% of the participants were female, 48% were male.

Tinea capitis was associated with: the wet season (OR 1.9, 95% CI: 1.38-2.6, p <0.001), and with male gender (OR 3.1, 95% CI: 2.3-4.2, p <0.001).

Conclusions: This study is the first of its kind to demonstrate the high burden of treatable skin disease in Guinea-Bissau and we use a robust sampling method. The integrated approach for diagnosing and managing skin disease used in this study improves efficiency, use of resources and broadens the skill-set of local health workers.