



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

TUBERCULOSIS IN ETHIOPIA

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Introduction: tuberculosis is still a serious problem in both developing and developed countries and its resurgence in the era of HIV/AIDS has rejuvenated the interest in this global health problem. Cutaneous tuberculosis represents 18% of extra-pulmonary locations in Ethiopia.

Objective: we described the prevalence and the incidence of Cutaneous Tuberculosis in Tigray. In Ethiopia the prevalence rate of Pulmonary infection was 533/100.000 inhabitants in 2010.

Materials and Methods: we analyzed the cases of Cutaneous Tuberculosis (CT) observed at the Italian Dermatological Centre (IDC) in Mekele, at Maiani District Hospital (MDH) in Tigray Ethiopia, between January 2006 and December 2017. Clinical diagnosis was confirmed with fine-needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) and Ziehl Neelsen or Methylene blue staining and histological investigations.

Results: During our clinical activity, 985 cases of CT were observed; among these, females represented 52.4% of cases and pediatric cases were 24.5%. Scrofuloderma and Lichen Scrofulosorum represented the most prevalent clinical manifestations while lupus vulgaris, tuberculosis verrucosa cutis and gumma were observed in few cases. The first affected area from scrofuloderma was the axilla followed by thoracic area; for lichen scrofulosorum it was represented by limbs.

Conclusions: tuberculosis represents common infection in all Ethiopia. Delayed diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis result in severe disease and higher mortality; it also leads to an increased period of infectivity in the community. Cutaneous tuberculosis, an important extra-pulmonary form, is commonly seen in our dermatological practice in Ethiopia in adult as well as pediatric patients.



24TH WORLD CONGRESS
OF DERMATOLOGY
MILAN 2019



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