



EPIDEMIOLOGY

STUDY OF CLINICO-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FACTORS AND ETIOLOGY OF GENITAL PRURITUS AT A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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Introduction: Genital pruritus is defined as itch involving genital skin such as pruritus scroti in males and pruritus vulvae in females. Genital pruritus is common in both sexes with a huge impact on quality of life and is responsible for severe distress and sleep disturbances. Although few studies have been done on specific causes of genital pruritus and on specific age groups, there is very limited literature available on prevalence of genital pruritus in India.

Objectives: To study the demographic magnitude, prevalence, epidemiology and clinical outcomes in patients with genital pruritus and factors associated with it.

Methods and Material: This study was conducted in the department of Dermatology of a tertiary care centre, from June 2017 to October 2018 after taking approval from the institutional ethics committee. A total of 430 consenting patients of both sexes between 0-65 years of age with genital pruritus were enrolled.

Results: Tinea cruris was the dominant cause of genital pruritus in all the age groups affecting 234 (54.41%) patients, followed by scabies 40 (9.30%). Vaginal candidiasis was the 3rd most common cause. Rare causes of genital pruritus such as bullous pemphigoid, angiokeratoma, calcinosis cutis etc were also diagnosed.

Conclusions: Our study is probably the first Indian study of genital pruritus in both sexes in a wide age group of 0-65 years. In view of the current dermatophytosis pandemic we found that tinea cruris was the dominant cause of genital pruritus.

Surprisingly we did not find even a single case of pinworm infestation as cause of genital itching in children.

