



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

## A CLINICAL ANALYSIS OF 21 CASES OF A NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASE FROM INDIA- MYCETOMA

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**Introduction:** Mycetoma is a chronic, suppurative and deforming granulomatous infection seen in tropical and sub-tropical areas. Gill was the first to publish a case from India in 1842. Despite scientific advances in the succeeding 177 years, some practical difficulties remain in its management.

**Objective:** To study clinical, epidemiological and microbiological aspects of mycetoma in patients at a tertiary care center in India, in the last 2 years.

**Material and Methods:** All patients presenting with localized, indolent soft tissue swelling with discharging sinuses and grains were subjected to thorough clinical, pathological, microbiological and radiological investigations.

**Results:** Of the 21 patients, 6 cases were diagnosed as Eumycetoma and 3 as actinomycetoma. A definite clinical diagnosis could not be ascertained in 12 patients. There were 16 males and 5 females. Eleven of these cases (52.4%) were from rural India. The average age of these patients was 42.9 years and the average disease duration was 8.4 years. Grains were isolated in 10 out of 21 cases (47.6%) of which 6 had black grains and 4 had pale colored grains. A total of 42 biopsies were performed of which the following common patterns were seen- sparse lymphocytic infiltrate in 16 (38%), granulation tissue in 23 (55%) and a fibro-collagenous dermis in 3(7%). More specific changes like epithelioid granuloma (9.5%), Splendore-Hoepli phenomenon (9.5%) and septate fungal hyphae (7%) were rarely seen. Culture studies had isolated *madurella mycetomatis* in 2 cases and *nocardia* species in 1 case. Bone involvement was present in 10 cases (47.6%).

**Conclusion:** Even with advances in microbiological and pathological diagnostic methods, conclusive diagnosis of the etiological agent remains elusive in most cases. With an average disease duration of 8.4 years and a poor diagnostic yield (43%) in achieving a correct diagnosis, mycetoma continues to be neglected in a tropical country like India.

