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Clinico-mycological pattern of nail infections in New Delhi

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Onychomycosis is one of the most frequent conditions seen in dermatology clinics. The nail disease usually starts as a cosmetic concern progressing to have a major physical and psychological effect on the patients both in young and adults. The causative agent of onychomycosis can be dermatophyte, non-dermatophyte moulds (NDM), or yeasts. A mycological study of onychomycosis was undertaken in 550 patients from January 2016 to December 2016 in the Department of Microbiology, Lady Hardinge Medical College. The patients belonged to a wide range of age spectrum. Males were seen to be predominantly affected (53.5%), male to female ratio being 1.4:1. After clinical suspicion, nail clippings were sent for direct KOH microscopy and fungal culture. Direct microscopy of the nail clips in 20% KOH solution was positive in 183 (33.27%) and culture was positive in 396 (72%) cases. Non-dermatophyte moulds (NDM) were isolated in 232 (42.18%), yeasts in 91 (16.55%), dermatophytes in 52 cases (9.45%). Amongst the NDMs, *Aspergillus* spp. was the most prevalent species followed by *Alternaria* spp., *Cladosporium* spp., *Penicillium* spp. and *Fusarium* spp. There is a shift in the aetiology of onychomycosis from yeasts and dermatophytes to non-dermatophyte moulds (NDMs) in our study. Change in the causative aetiology of onychomycosis as well as the emergence of drug resistant fungi and consequent treatment failures make it mandatory for culture of the mycological agents to know the distribution and epidemiology of fungal agents of onychomycosis.

Biography

Ravinder Kaur is a Professor and the Head of Mycology Division at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, India. She was the Principal Investigator of 28 research projects and Co-investigator of 35 research projects in Mycology and Microbiology. She has also worked on the diagnosis of fungal infections in immunocompromised patients, and was involved in the development of different standards and new techniques in isolation and identification of fungi and standardization of molecular identification and characterization. She has presented 35 papers in international conferences and 70 papers in national conferences, and has published more than 85 papers in different international and national journals.

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