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Squaric acid dibutylester topical sensitizer for the treatment of alopecia areata

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Squaric acid dibutylester is a topical sensitizer utilized for the treatment of alopecia areata. The mechanism of action is not fully understood, but is believed to redirect the inflammatory response targeting the follicles by invoking an allergic reaction on the surface of the skin. Several studies have compared the efficacy of squaric acid dibutylester to other treatments versus placebo with favorable results. This discussion will cover the history of squaric acid, the mechanism of action, the use in alopecia areata, and the efficacy and safety of this therapeutic modality.

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Prevalence of tinea (ringworm) infection and associated dermatophytes, in primary schools in Ilorin, North Western Nigeria

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A survey of ringworm infections was carried out in two primary schools, one within Ilorin township (an urban set up) and the other in Agbede-Elekoyanga in the outskirt of Ilorin (a rural set up). Rice Agar was used to isolate the Dermatophytes by cultural and microscopic method using Fungi Atlas. The results showed that infections were less prevalent at the urban set up compared to the rural set up. The scalp infections were found to be dominant with about 59% prevalence while 41% was recorded for infections located on other parts of the body. Three isolates were observed; Microsporum audouinii (52.63%), Microsporum canis (26.32%) and Trichophyton rubrum (21.05%). For the urban set up, Microsporum audouinii was dominant with (70%), while Microsporum canis (60%) was found to be prevalent among the rural set up. Infections were more prevalent among male pupils with 90% and female 10%. Analysis of variance indicated a marked difference between the rural and urban set ups at $P > 0.05$. The causative organisms were characterized to be filamentous and septate hyphae. Dermatophytes infections in immuno-compromised patients can be quite severe.

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