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Clinico-mycological pattern of hair and skin infection in New Delhi

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Fungi parasitize structures rich in keratin, like hair, skin and nails, leading to different dermal inflammatory responses presenting with intense itching and cosmetic disfigurement. Knowledge of the regional and epidemiological characteristics and diagnosis by in vitro culture of the fungi involved is a must for optimum management of this vast variety of patients. Hence we decided to study the clinical spectrum and etiology of the mycological infections of skin and hair in dermatology outpatients' in a tertiary care hospital, New Delhi. 100 consecutive outpatients with clinical suspicion of superficial fungal infection of hair and skin were studied from April 2015-December 2015 in Mycology Laboratory. Plucked hair and scrapings, biopsy and scales of skin were collected. Potassium hydroxide (KOH) mounts and culture on Sabourauds Dextrose Agar (SDA) was done and incubated at 25 °C and 37 °C for 4-6 weeks. Identification was done by colony morphology, microscopy of Lactophenol cotton blue (LPCB) and slide culture mounts. Male to female ratio was 1.9:1 with predominance in <10 years of age (30%). Tinea corporis (32%) was the commonest presentation followed by Tinea capitis (26%), Tinea manuum (20%), Tinea pedis (20%) and Tinea faciei (2%). Direct microscopy was positive in 37%, culture in 46% while both were positive in 27%. Dermatophytes were grown in 27 (24.5%), while 17 (16.5%) had growth of non dermatophyte moulds (NDM) with 6 (5.8%) of yeasts. *Trichophyton rubrum* (7.8%) was the commonest dermatophyte followed by *T. verrucosum* (5.8%), *T. schoenleinii* (5.8%), *T. mentagrophyte* (3.9%) and *T. violaceum* (1.9%). *Aspergillus flavus* (2.9%) was the most common NDM and others were, *A. terreus*, *A. fumigatus*, *A. niger*, *Penicillium* spp., *Syncephalastrum* spp., *Paecilomyces* spp., *Mucor* spp., *Rhizopus* spp., and *Epicoccum* spp. There was a rising trend of non-dermatophytic moulds seen replacing the most common dermatophytes. Knowing the etiology and the antifungal spectrum would go a long way in reducing the morbidity.

Biography

Ravinder Kaur is presently the Director, Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology Lady Hardinge Medical College and was Head of Mycology Division in the Department of Microbiology at Maulana Azad Medical College for the last 2 decades. She is the Principal Investigator in 28 research projects and Co-Investigator in 35 research projects in mycology and microbiology and presented 35 papers in international conferences and 70 papers in national conferences and published more than 70 papers in different international & national journals.

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