DERMATOPHYTIC PROFILE OF JAIPUR (RAJASTHAN)

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Received: 30 July, 1994
Accepted: 9 September, 1994

ABSTRACT: Out of 410 clinically diagnosed cases of superficial mycoses encountered during 1985 – 87, direct KOH mounts were positive in 250 (62.19%) cases and the cultures were positive in 123 (30.00%) cases. The organisms isolated included Trichophyton rubrum (36.58%), T. simii (32.52%), T. mentagrophytes (12.19%), C. tropicum (8.13%), Microsporum gypseum (6.50%), Epidermophyton floccosum (2.43%), T. violaceum (0.81%) and Candida albicans (0.81%). Majority of cases occurred among the age group of 21 – 30 years. Tinea corporis and tinea cruris were the commonest clinical types encountered.

INTRODUCTION

Several species of keratinophilic fungi have the ability to cause superficial infections in man and animals involving the keratinized tissues such as epidermis, hair, nails, horn and feathers. This closely related group of keratinophilic fungi is known as dermatophytes (Raktaja krimi) and disease is designated as dermatomycoses (dermatophytoses) because of the characteristic ring-shaped lesions and due to earlier belief that it was caused by worms has been commonly called ‘Ringworm infection’.

Ever since prehistoric time man did have knowledge of this infection and references to Dadru kushtha equivalent to dermatomycoses (1) in Charaka Samhitai goes as far back as 700 B.C. when this book was composed.

The present work was undertaken to explore more fungal species of dermatophytes in a bid to study the pattern of distribution and prevalence of a particular fungal species in Jaipur district compared to other parts of the country. Several case of dermatophyte infection have been described in the literature (2-8) in general and about the studies done in Rajasthan in particular (9-12).

MATERIALS AND METHODS.

Materials comprised infected skin of 410 patients attending the skin O.P.D of S.M.S. Medical College Hospital and E.S.I. Hospital at Jaipur during 1985 – 87.

First of all, the infected part of the patients was cleaned with the help of 70% alcohol swabs and using sterilized scalpels or blade, the skin was gently scarped from the peripheral region of the lesion because peripheral region of the lesion because peripheral area is the most active site of the fungus. The infected skin, nails or hair were collected in sterilized polythene bags.
The preliminary examination of the material was done immediately by mounting a portion of skin/hair so collected in 10% KOH and observed under microscope for the presence of fungal spores or hyphae, if any.

Apart from the name of the patient the following additional information was recorded – Date of collection of sample, sex, age, nature of infection, site of infection, occupation, history of illness, result of KOH test, etc. The skin samples so collected were mounted on the slopes of Sabouraud’s agar fortified with chloramphenicol (0.05 mg/ml) and cycloheximide (0.5 mg/ml) and incubated in the oven at 28 ± 2°C for four weeks. Culture positive tubes were retained and further sub-culturing was done in petriplates using dilution technique in order to obtain absolutely pure colony of fungus. Identification of dermatophyte was based on morphological, cultural and biochemical studies.

RESULTS

*Tinea corporis* (infection of the glabrous skin) was the most commonly encountered clinical type 38.82% during the survey. *Trichophyton rubrum* was the most commonly occurring fungi, its prevalence being 36.58% (Table 1). Male preponderance was higher (69.25%) in all tinea infections as compared to females (30.74%).

The age group of 21-30 showed highest cases of infection constituting 26.33% of all age groups studies. The incidence of tinea capitis was higher among children.

An important feature observed during our study is that *Chrysosporium tropicum* infection has become common in Jaipur District.

DISCUSSION

*Trichophyton rubrum* has been reported as the most common fungus occurring in various parts of the country (5-12). Our findings are in agreement with the results of previous workers. The common occurrence of this species of fungus in various parts of the country may be due to its greater adaptability to survive in the varying climatic conditions existing in India.

*T. rubrum* has also found to have higher protease secreting capacity which acts as weapon for gaining an easy access into the host tissues (13).

Lower rate of infection in females observed by us could be perhaps due to the social restriction and restricted mobility of majority of female population in Rajasthan owing to superstitions and illiteracy. Thus fewer females report to the hospital than males do.

Compared to the other states of India, infection due to *M.gypseum* was higher. On the contrary, incidence of *E.floccosum* infection was lower (Table 2).

The dermatophyte infection during 1985 – 87 in Jaipur (Rajasthan) has shown an increase of 9.19% over 1980 – 82.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first author wishes to thank CSIR for financial support and Head, Department of Botany, Rajasthan University, Jaipur for providing all the facilities for this work.
TABLE 1: FUNGI ISOLATED FROM CASES OF DERMATOMYCOSES IN JAIPUR

| S. No. | Tinea Corporis | Tinea Cruris | Tinea Capitis | Tinea Unguina | Tinea Pedis | Tinea barbae | Tinea manum | Tinea manum + pedis | Total |
|--------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------|
| 1      | Number examined | 155         | 110          | 58            | 14          | 29           | 13          | 30                  | 1     | 410             |
| 2      | Number positive by Microscopy | 99 (38.82%) | 56 (21.96%) | 42 (16.47%) | 10 (3.92%) | 23 (9.02%)   | 7 (2.74%)   | 17 (6.66%)          | 1     | 255 (62.19%) |
| 3      | Number Positive by culture | 52          | 29           | 10            | 9           | 5            | 7           | 1                   | 1     | 123 (30.00%) |
| 4      | Fungi involved – |             |              |               |             |              |             |                     |       |
|        | Trichophyton rubrum | 17          | 9            | -             | 6           | 4            | 2           | 6                   | 1     | 45              |
|        | T. simii          | 17          | 12           | 4             | 2           | 2            | 2           | 1                   | -     | 40              |
|        | T. mentagrophytes | 5           | 4            | -             | 2           | 3            | 1           | -                   | -     | 15              |
|        | T. violaceum      | 1           | -            | -             | -           | -            | -           | -                   | -     | 1               |
|        | Chrysosporium tropicum | 6           | 2            | 2             | -           | -            | -           | -                   | -     | 10              |
|        | Microsporum gypseum | 4           | -            | 4             | -           | -            | -           | -                   | -     | 8               |
|        | Epidermophyton floccosum | 1           | 2            | -             | -           | -            | -           | -                   | -     | 3               |
|        | Candida albicans  | 1           | -            | -             | -           | -            | -           | -                   | -     | 1               |
### TABLE 2. COMPARATIVE PREVALENCE OF DERMATOPHYTES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF INDIA

| Authors                  | Place          | Year of Study | T. rubrum | T. mentagrophytes | E. Floccossum | M. Gypseum |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|------------|
| Klokke & Durairaj, 1969  | Vellore        | 1967          | 33.9%     | -                | 9.3%          | -          |
| Stephen & Rao            | Manipal        | 1969-75       | 1.50%     | -                | 5.56%         | 16.67%     |
| Mulay et. al             | Delhi          | 1970-970      | 88.8%     | -                | 56.1%         | 92.60%     |
| Kaur                     | Chandigarh     | 1971          | 56.1%     | -                | 92.60%        | 0.1%       |
| Amin                     | Ahmedabad      | 1972          | 42.60%    | -                | 1.05%         | -          |
| Verma & Singh            | Rohtak         | 1973          | 71.42%    | -                | 4.0%          | -          |
| Sehgal & Shome           | Varanasi       | 1974          | 42.8%     | -                | 58.0%         | -          |
| Khalique et. al.         | Aurangabad     | 1975          | 70.8%     | 1.9%             | 9.9%          | -          |
| Garg                     | Jaipur         | 1976-77       | 54.2%     | -                | 9.2%          | 0.4%       |
| Pankaj Lakshmi & Subramanian | Madras       | 1977-78       | 84%       | -                | 11%           | -          |
| Sharma et al. 1980       | Chandigarh     | 1978          | 74.5%     | 7.6%             | 14.2%         | -          |
| Singh et al. 1980        | Delhi          | 1979-80       | 49.0%     | 31.3%            | 5.9%          | 13.7%      |
| Prasad & Prakash 1979    | Ranchi         | 1980          | 36.58%    | 12.19%           | 2.43%         | 6.50%      |
| Sharma 1983              | Jaipur         | 1985-87       | 36.58%    | 12.19%           | 2.43%         | 6.50%      |
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