

AETIOLOGICAL AGENTS OF TINEA CAPITIS IN CHILDREN (TEHRAN -IRAN)

S. Bassiri Jahromi, A-A. Khaksar, G. Sadeghi

Medical Mycology Department, Pasteur Institute of Iran, Tehran, Iran

shshahindokhtb@yahoo.com

Tinea capitis is a common dermatophyte infection which constitutes an important public health problem among children world wide. A total of 1568 patients with suspected tinea capitis were examined for causative fungal agents between 1994 and 2001. Laboratory examination confirmed tinea capitis in 209 patients. Male affected more frequently (67.5%) than female (32.5%) and in both sexes, those who were 3-11 years old, more infected. *Trichophyton violaceum* was the most common aetiological agent (37.3%) followed by *Trichophyton schoenleinii* (21.5%) , *Microsporum canis* (18.6%), *Trichophyton rubrum* (1%), *Microsporum gypseum* (1%) and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* (0.5%). Higher disease incidence was found to be correlated with larger family and class size. The findings are discussed in relation to the children's different socioeconomic and hygienic backgrounds.

Key words: Tinea capitis, aetiology, dermatophytosis, fungal infections

