

TINEA FACIEI AND TINEA CAPITIS IN A 15-DAY-OLD INFANT

R R Mittal, Shivali

A case of tinea faciei and tinea capitis in a 15-day-old male infant caused by *Trichophyton tonsurans* is being reported because of its rarity. This may be the youngest infant from India where source of infection was his elder brother who had black dot type of tinea capitis and incubation period in the present case was 7 days.

Key Words : Dermatophytosis, Tinea faciei, *Trichophyton tonsurans*

Introduction

Superficial dermatophytosis caused by *Microsporum*, *Epidermophyton* and *Trichophyton* is extremely uncommon in infants and is usually associated with an index case in family members or pet animals. A case of tinea capitis and corporis in a 30-day-old infant caused by *Microsporum canis* was reported in 1953.¹ Superficial fungal infections in infants were reviewed in 1953.² Another case of tinea capitis and corporis by *M canis* was added in 1969.³ A case of tinea faciei in a 8-day-old infant caused again by *Microsporum canis* was reported in 1972.⁴ A case of kerion, tinea faciei and coporis in an 1½-month-old infant was reported from India.⁵

Case Report

A 15-day-old infant boy had three annular plaques for 8 days. Parents observed one plaque just beneath medial side of right eye (Fig. 1) and second on the margin of left side of scalp. Next day third plaque was seen on left forehead. Plaques increased in size and child was not irritable. Typical 1.2 to 2 cm diameter, annular to circinate plaques with erythematous, raised, broken margins studded with papules, vesicles, pustules



Fig. 1. Circinate plaque with broken margin studded with papulo-vesicular lesions below the medial side of eye.

associated with central flattened area covered with fine scales were so characteristic that clinical diagnosis of tinea faciei and capitis was easy. His 4-year-old brother had untreated, moderately itchy, black dot type of tinea capitis for 4 months. Skin scrapings in the infant and hair in his 4-year-old brother were positive for spores and hyphae. Cultures from both children revealed slow growing, whitish, powdery colonies which were heaped up and folded in the centre. Culture mounts in both the cases revealed identical match stick microconidia characteristic of *Trichophyton tonsurans*.

Discussion

Superficial dermatophytosis in infants is a rare condition. Most of the cases

From the Department of Skin and VD, Government Medical College and Rajindra Hospital, Patiala - 147001, India.

Addrees correspondence to : Dr R R Mittal

reported in the literature are due to *Microsporum canis* and the case from India was caused by *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*. The present case is caused by *Trichophyton tonsurans* and the source of infection in our patient was his elder brother. Incubation period in the present case was 7 days and in the other case from India, it was 3 days. Experimentally it was proved that incubation period was 5 days or less for superficial dermatophytosis.⁶

References

1. Bereston ES, Robinson HM Jr. Tinea capitis and corporis in an infant four weeks old. Arch Dermatol 1953; 68: 664-7.
 2. King WC, Walton IK, Livingood CS. Superficial fungal infections in infants. Arch Dermatol 1953; 68: 664-7.
 3. Alden ER, Chernila SA. Ringworm in an infant. Pediatrics 1969; 44: 261-2
 4. Jacobs AH, Jacobs PH, Nancy Moore. Tinea faciei due to *Microsporum canis* in an 8-day-old infant. JAMA 1972; 219:1476.
 5. Khare AK, Pandey SS, Singh G, Sharma BM. Kerion, tinea faciei and tinea corporis in an infant. Ind J Dermatol 1984; 50: 271-2.
 6. Singh G. Experimental *Trichophyton* infection of intact human skin. Br J Dermatol 1973; 89: 595-9.
-