

ABSTRACTS

Mycoplasmas in Genital Tract, O.P. Singh and T. R. Kapur, (Dept Dermato-Venereol, A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi) Indian Med Gaz, 14 : 263, 1974.

The controversial pathogenic role of "T" mycoplasmas has been reviewed in the aetiology of non-specific urethritis in males and uro-genital tract infections of females.

Ciclopirox — a new topical pyrodonium antimycotic agent. A double-blind study in superficial dermatomycosis. V.N. Sehgal (Dept. Venereol Dermatol, Goa Med Col., Panaji) Brit J Dermatol, 95 : 83, 1976.

Ciclopirox (HOE 296*) is 1-hydroxy-4-methyl-6-cyclohexyl-2-(1H)-pyridone ethanolamine salt. It is a new topical antimycotic agent effective against *Trichophyton rubrum*, *T. violaceum*, *T. mentagrophytes* and *Malassezia furfur*. It is also effective against a variety of gram positive and gram negative organisms.

The present study was undertaken to compare ciclopirox with placebo in a double-blind clinical study. 105 patients of either sex above the age of 18 years, suffering from superficial dermatomycosis received either ciclopirox 1% solution in polyethylene glycol 400 or placebo solution containing the vehicle according to the randomisation table. The patients were followed up daily for 5 days for clinical examination. Thereafter, both mycological and clinical examinations were carried out on 5th, 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of treatment. The safety was evaluated by estimating haemoglobin, WBC, SGOT, SGPT, serum bilirubin, prothrombin time, blood urea and urinalysis before and at the end of therapy. Considering the drop-outs during follow up, the total number of patients available for analysis was 44 ciclopirox and 49 for placebo.

It was observed that 25 of 44 patients receiving ciclopirox were considered cured while 14 of the 49 cases receiving placebo showed similar improvement (P. 0.02). The cure was defined as absence of fungi on microscopic examination, negative culture and marked to complete relief from symptoms.

None of the patients in either the ciclopirox or the placebo group showed any local or systemic side effects. Haematological examination and liver and kidney function tests did not reveal any abnormality.

An Antigen from *Parthenium Hysterophorus* Linn, Arvind Lonkar, B.A. Nagasampagi, C.R. Narayanan, A.B. Landge and D.D. Sawaikar, (Life Sci. Tech. Centre, Bank of India Bldg., Laxmi Rd., Poona) Contact Dermatitis, 2 : 151, 1976.

The increasing incidence of contact dermatitis due to the wild growth of the weed *parthenium hysterophorus* Linn. in many parts of India has prompted chemical analysis coupled with clinical testing to isolate the offending agent. Results are presented to show that parthenin, a sesquiterpene lactone, is the major antigen which produces contact dermatitis in sensitive human beings.

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