

KERION, TINEA FACIEI AND TINEA CORPORIS IN AN INFANT

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A one and a half month old infant with kerion, tinea faciei and tinea corporis starting at the age of 3 days is reported because of its rarity. An incubation period of three days was noticed in this case.

Key words : Kerion, Tinea faciei, Tinea corporis, Infant.

Dermatophytoses excepting tinea capitis are more common in the third decade.^{1,2} Dermatophytic infections, in infants are relatively rare. An infant aged one month was the youngest patient of dermatophytosis in the series of Mulay and Garg.³ Saferstein et al⁴ described a 9-month-old infant as their youngest patient with tinea capitis. This communication describes an infant with kerion, tinea faciei and tinea corporis which started at the age of 3 days.

Case Report

A villager brought his 1½-month-old male baby with multiple swellings on his scalp and inflammatory lesions on his face and trunk since three days after birth. The baby had been very irritable. The delivery was conducted by an untrained midwife. Immediately after birth, the baby slipped from the hands of midwife and fell on the ground. The owners of the house used to tie a goat during night in this room. Injection ATS was given on the same day. Three days later, the mother noticed small eruptions on the scalp, face, chest and abdomen. Gradually, these lesions increased in size and finally, the scalp lesions developed into swellings with pus discharge. This was followed by hair loss. The lesions on the face and trunk became erythematous and annular.

The family history of dermatophytic infection was denied. Hairs were epilated from the scalp lesion and the skin scrapings were collected from the face and trunk lesions. The samples were examined in KOH and cultured on Sabouraud's dextrose agar medium. Hair in KOH preparation showed chains of spores inside as well as outside the hair. Colony characteristics and further investigations revealed *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*. The soil of the delivery room, and the hair of the goat could not be investigated.

Comments

Singh⁵ produced experimental *Trichophyton* infection of intact human skin by putting a suspension of *Trichophyton rubrum* culture under occlusion. He observed that five days were enough for the fungus to produce the lesion. He concluded that the incubation period under optimal conditions may be less than five days. Sloper⁶ observed the incubation period to be 2, 2-7 and 3 days for *Epidermophyton floccosum*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* and *Trichophyton rubrum* respectively. Though abrasion is not an essential pre-requisite, it may cause high chances of 'takes' due to exudation which results in hydration and so increased susceptibility.⁵ The incubation period in our case was three days.

In Indian villages, most of the houses are small and have fewer rooms. Due to the paucity of space, the same room is used for many purposes. In our case, the source of infection was perhaps the goat which shared the same room during nights where the delivery was conducted.

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