

## Authors' reply

Sir,

We thank Singh and Lavanya for showing interest and responding to our article "Comparison of potassium hydroxide mount and mycological culture with histopathologic examination using periodic acid-

Schiff staining of the nail clippings in the diagnosis of onychomycosis".<sup>[1]</sup> We agree with some of the views expressed, however others may need reconsideration.

It is true that mycological culture has a higher specificity, but it has lower sensitivity as compared to histopathology with periodic acid-Schiff staining (HP/PAS).<sup>[1,2]</sup> HP/PAS is relatively quick, and a specificity of 72% cannot be overlooked.<sup>[3]</sup> In most cases, morphological aspect of the hyphae and/or spores can suggest the group to which pathogens belong.<sup>[3]</sup> In personal view of the authors, cost of HP/PAS is not so high considering all these informations obtained after doing this test, and when compared to the cost of onychomycosis therapy.

HP/PAS is not an alternate test to mycologic culture. It a simple and highly sensitive screening test and can be performed as a complementary to mycological culture and potassium hydroxide (KOH) mount to close the diagnostic gap.<sup>[1]</sup> PAS staining can be performed routinely as a standard of practice in the lab diagnosis of onychomycosis, however, histochemical staining using Gomori methenamine silver may have higher sensitivity.<sup>[4]</sup> All these factors suggest that HP/PAS staining of nail clips should be considered as a valuable test in the diagnosis of onychomycosis.

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