

## Changing in the Epidemiology of Tinea Capitis among School Children in Egypt.

**Background:** Tinea capitis remains a prevalent health problem among school-aged children. **Objective:** To estimate the prevalence of tinea capitis among primary school students, in Fayoum, Egypt with identification of etiological agents in both public and private primary schools. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted in twelve primary schools. The students were selected from different grades with a total number of 12,128 students. Hair and scalp were clinically examined for any lesions that may suspect tinea capitis and mycological samples were collected for direct microscopy and culture. **Results:** The prevalence of tinea capitis in the study group was 0.4% and higher in public than private schools (73.5% versus 26.5% respectively). Boys were more affected than girls with boy to girls' ratio 5:1. Intrafamily history of infection was present in 40.8% of tested group while 51% showed low social standard profile. Mycological culture revealed that *M. canis* was the predominant isolated organism followed by *M. audouinii* (52 % and 36% respectively). **Conclusion:** *M. canis* is replacing *T. violaceum* as an etiology for tinea capitis in Egypt with lower prevalence rate than reported previously.

**Key Words:** Tinea Capitis; Epidemiology; School students. *M. canis*