

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 *Microsporum canis* was the predominant isolated organism followed by *M. audouinii* (52% and 36% respectively). Conclusion: *M. canis* is replacing *Trichophyton violaceum* as an etiology for tinea capitis in Egypt with lower prevalence rate than reported previously. (Ann Dermatol 29(1) 13-19, 2017)