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Original article:

The role of mycological investigations in the diagnosis of Pityriasis Versicolor and Seborrheic Dermatitis

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Abstract:

Introduction: Pityriasis Versicolor is a mild, chronic infection of the skin, caused by *Malassezia* yeast.It involves stratum corneum characterized by discrete or confluent, scaly hypo or hyperpigmented areas mainly on the upper trunk. Present study evaluates the role of mycological investigations in the diagnosis of Seborrheic dermatitis and Pityriasis versicolor infection.

**Materials and methods:** The consecutive patients were selected from the patients attending Nair OPD on the basis of various signs and symptoms they show. The symptoms were confirmed by two separate dermatologists. Patients were shown patient information sheet and a written informed consent was taken from each.

**Observations and results:** The KOH positivity was found to be 78.38% as against KOH negativity which was 21.62% of all 40 cases.

The patients of Pityriasis versicolor mostly present themselves between 1-6 months of duration of the illness. One striking finding seen is the number of patients presenting after the duration of 3 yrs was 7.

**Conclusion:** The diagnosis of Pityriasis versicolor and Seborrheic dermatitis can be done on the basis of clinical findings and KOH examination. Culture and biochemical reactions are only required for the confirmation of *Malassezia* species.