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**Original article:
Prevalence of dermatophytosis and its spectrum in a tertiary care hospital, Kolhapur**

**Dr. Shilpa Dayanand Putta ,Dr. Vanita Ashok Kulkarni , Dr. Arati Ankush Bhadade ,Dr. Vijay Narayan Kulkarni ,**

**Dr. Aparajeet Sadanand Walawalkar**

Department Of Microbiology , R.C.S.M. Govt. Medical College & C.P.R. hospital, First floor of Koyana building, Dasara Chowk, Kolhapur- 416 001

Corresponding author: Dr. Shilpa Dayanand Putta

**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Dermatophytosis prevalence is variably is common in different parts of the India. Climatic conditions in varied states is favourable for dermatophytosis which can lead to irresistible clinical symptoms and if not treated in time infection spreads rapidly.

**Aim and objectives:** this study was carried out to evaluate prevalence as well as mycological profile of dermatophytosis in clinically suspected cases.

**Material and Methods:** Total 80 clinically diagnosed cases of dermatophytosis were included for the study. Specimens collected were skin scrapings, nail scrapes or nail clippings and infected hair stubs according to type of ringworm infected. All specimens subjected to standard laboratory techniques i.e. microscopy by KOH mount and simultaneous culture inoculation on special fungal media.

**Results:** Tinea corporis (41.25%) was the common clinical condition presented in patients of dermatophytosis. KOH (87.50%) found to be simple and effective diagnostic tool in early detection of cases while culture shown positivity in 78.75% cases. Major isolates were dermatophytes(66.25%) and among those *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* (37.74%) was the predominant isolate followed by *Trichophyton tonsurans* (28.30%) and *Trichophyton rubrum* (24.53%).

**Conclusion:** Taking into account prevalence of dermatophytes, it has been found to be major skin pathogen in Kolhapur. Also this clinical condition is more prevalent in males as compared to females. Farming, poultry and allied occupation which is common occupation in and around Kolhapur may be responsible for development of dermatophytosis. Need to build awareness in population regarding dermatophytoses so as to prevent emergence and spread of disease in future.

**Key Words:** Dermatophytosis, Dermatophytes, Tinea, Trichophyton