

mykosen

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11/1970

1. November

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Tinea capitis in suckling (A survey on 70 cases)

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The period under 12 months of age, the so-called state of suckling, is somewhat more rarely affected by ringworminfections than the other periods of childhood, because it is generally much more protected from the contact with the main sources of contamination. When, however, such an eventuality occurs, the disease may be contracted either from one of the family's member or from an animal source (directly or indirectly). Practically spoken, there is no special protection for the suckling's skin or scalp to be involved by the fungi attacking these sites.

From a lot of almost 7000 cases of tinea capitis observed in the last 25 years, we were able to collect 70 such infections affecting the infant between two and eleven months of age. The sex, the clinical type and the number of cases in connection with the isolated agent are summarized in the Table 1.

Comments

Some peculiar aspects may be pointed out:

1. Tinea capitis in romanian sucklings is mostly found at the age of eleven months (almost 85 % of the cases), the girl being more frequently affected (18 %). In the first months of human life the incidence of tinea capitis is a fact of clinical curiosity, although such cases have been reported even in the new born (KVITKO, HUBNER, VEDERNIKOV, etc.).
2. The main clinical type of tinea capitis observed at this age was the *superficial* type of manifestation (88,5 %), with small or larger scaly patches and partial loss of hair. Only five cases of *favus*-type, with diffuse adherent scaling and little alopecia, in whole resembling seborrheic eczema, were found. *Kerion* type of infection was also seen, but only in 8 infants at the age of eleven months.
3. The common species usually affecting the scalp in Romania are the same responsible of the infection in this area. *M. audouini* was the agent no. 1, *T. violaceum* the agent no. 2, both dermatophytes giving more than one third of all the cases. In order of frequency followed *T. mentagrophytes* and *M. canis*, each one with more than 15 % of the infections. The manifestation by *T. mentagrophytes* on our infants' scalp were all Kerion, but one. The cases due to *M. canis* were found mostly in girls, all from urban areas. The participation of the other agents (*T. schoenleini*, *M. ferrugineum*, *T. tonsurans*), commonly reported as responsables for tinea capitis, in older ages than the period of two till 11 months, was less important.
4. As for the *source of contamination*, it was observed that many of the patients with tinea capitis had contracted the disease within their families, where one or more members were affected by the same agent. With the exception of the case by *T. tonsurans*, in which the father with tinea barbae had transmitted the agent on the scalp of his girl (by kissing her repeatedly), the other human contacts were children, an elder brother or sister. For the tinea capitis by *T. schoenleini* the suckling was the last affected from the other 3—5 children in the family. The cases due to *M. canis* had a cat for their history. KELLY & MACKENZIE have reported a *T. verrucosum* infection in a two months old infant, but such circumstances have failed to appear in our cases.

Table 1: Cases of tinea capitis in suckling

Age (in months)	Type of infection	Number of cases									Total							
		M. aud.		M. can.		M. fer.		T. viol.		T. men.		T. ton.		T. sch.				
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M		F	M	F	M	F		
2	Superfic. Kerion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
3	Superfic. Kerion	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
4	Superfic. Kerion	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5	Superfic. Kerion	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
6	Superfic. Kerion	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
7	Superfic. Kerion	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
8	Superfic. Kerion	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
9	Superfic. Kerion	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
10	Superfic. Kerion	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4
11	Superfic. Kerion	8	10	1	7	3	1	5	9	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	50
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	8
	Total	10	12	2	9	3	1	7	9	3	8	—	1	4	1	—	—	70

Legend

M. aud. = M. audouini
T. viol. = T. violaceum
T. ton. = T. tonsurans

M. can. = M. canis
T. men. = T. mentagrophytes
T. sch. = T. schoenleini

M. fer. = M. ferrugineum

Summary

A report on 70 cases of tinea capitis in suckling is given, most of them being observed at the age of eleven months. *M. audouini* and *T. violaceum* were the main causative agents of these manifestations, followed by *T. mentagrophytes* and *M. canis*. A minor participation was noted for *T. schoenleini*, *M. ferrugineum* and *T. tonsurans*. The superficial type was the main clinical form produced, while Kerion was seen in 8 cases only, and favus in 5. The disease was contracted mainly from another member of the family affected by the same agent.

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