

**EV0729**

**ePoster Viewing**

**Fungal disease epidemiology & clinical trials**

**Is it necessary to treat the surrounding skin in patients with toenail onychomycosis?**

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**Background:** Onychomycosis is the most common fungal skin infection and it is frequently seen in the setting of other concomitant fungal infections, the most common being *tinea pedis*. There is a constant need to define the epidemiological and mycological characteristics of onychomycosis (OM) for optimal management strategies.

**Material/methods:** The aim of this study was to define the degree of association between dermatophyte toenail onychomycosis and *tinea pedis* and their mycological characteristics in a tertiary care hospital.

We reviewed the results of KOH-Calcofluor and fungal culture in 1210 consecutive patients with clinically possible toenail onychomycosis during the 2014 year period. Etiological agents were identified by cultures on Sabouraud's dextrose agar with and without cycloheximide.

**Results:** A total of 299 (24.7%) patients had toenail onychomycosis. From patients with toenail onychomycosis, 145 (48.5%) had concomitant *tinea pedis* infection. The male-to-female ratio was 1.13:1. In toenails, *Trichophyton rubrum* was the most common etiological agent (46.5%), followed by *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* complex (17.1%).

**Conclusions:** Infected nails become a reservoir of fungal organisms that may infect the skin, and viceversa. Early, effective treatment of the nails is necessary to prevent not only a permanent structural damage but also the spreading and infection of the surrounding skin and soft tissue. Moreover, treatment of the skin is also important to prevent reinfection of the nails.