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Poster Session I

Confronting fungal infections

AGENTS OF TINEA CAPITIS AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS IN THE AEGEAN REGION OF TURKEY, 1974-2011

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Tinea capitis continues to be considered a public health problem. This retrospective study was carried out with the aim of determining the agents of Tinea capitis and their distribution according to age groups in the Aegean Region of Turkey, 1974-2011, using the data obtained from the Mycology Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Ege University.

Hair specimens and skin scrapings from 4065 patients (2331 male and 1734 female) who were suspected to have Tinea capitis were examined with conventional mycological methods. In 925 patients' cultures yielded dermatophytes. Culture positivity was highest (37.6%) in children aged 5-9.

The most frequent agent of Tinea capitis was *Microsporum canis* (58.8 %) followed by *Trichophyton violaceum* (20.1 %), *T. verrucosum* (9.0%), *T. schoenleinii* (5.1%), *T. rubrum* (4.0 %), *T. mentagrophytes* (1.2 %), *T. tonsurans* (0.9 %), *M. gypseum* (0.8%) and *E. floccosum* (0.2%). *Microsporum canis* infection was found in 69.5 % of male and in 30.5 % of female patients with Tinea capitis.

It was concluded that in the last 37 years the most frequent agent of Tinea capitis was *M. canis* with a predominance of male elementary school children.