

## A CASE REPORT OF *MICROSPORUM FERRUGINEUM* INFECTION IN KARACHI

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In May 1983, a 12 year girl visited the skin out patient department, Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre, Karachi for treatment. The symptoms of the disease appeared in the form of multiple scaly eruptions and gradual loss of hair from the infected portion on the scalp. The patient also complained of persistent itching in the infected area for the last three months. The disease was identified as tinea capitis.

Infected area was swabbed with 70% alcohol and the hair and skin scrappings collected. A portion of the clinical specimen was dissolved in 15% potassium hydroxide solution and in microscopic examination it was identified as *Microsporum ferrugineum* (Robell & Taplin, 1970).

The patient was treated three times a day with an antifungal cream, Clotrimazole (Bis-phenyl-I (2-chlorophenyl-I-imidazolyl methane) (Wolfgang, 1980). The infection subsided in two weeks and completely eradicated in 8 weeks time.

*M. ferrugineum* has been widely implicated as an important cause of dermatomycoses in Asia, Europe and Africa (Emmons *et al.*, 1977). It is commonly found in Japan, Africa and rarely or unknown in Western hemisphere except in Brazil where a single case has been reported (Ajello, 1974). The isolation of *M. ferrugineum* from a human patient of tinea capitis is, therefore, the first case report from Karachi and it may turn out to be significant.

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**References**

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