

SHORT COMMUNICATION

A COMPARATIVE STUDY: TREATMENT OF SCABIES

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ABSTRACT

The treatment of scabies in 260 patients have been studied during the outbreak of disease last year. The patients of age group 10-45 years were divided into three groups and were topically treated. First group with sulphur, second with benzyl benzoate and the third with a combination of Sulphur and benzyl benzoate, alongwith the usual dose of antihistamine. The results of therapeutic success showed that the scabies treatment period has decreased down to 20% by the combined use of benzyl benzoate and sulphur. There was only two cases of replaces.

STUDY

Scabies a contagious dermatitis caused by the itch mite *Sarcoptes scabiei*.¹ It is usually treated by many combination drugs in the market.²⁻⁴ Researchers are continuously looking for different combinations to decrease the treatment period of scabies.⁵⁻⁹ We also tried locally a combination of the two well known chemicals (benzyl benzoate and sulphur) during the outbreak of this disease in the residents of this complex last year, belonging to the age group of 10-45 years. Nearly 260 patients were treated at this complex's hospital. These patients were divided into three patient groups. The first group was treated by the sulphur compounds, the second by the benzyl benzoate and the third group by the 50% combination of both the chemicals (sulphur and benzyl benzoate) which were mixed before application in the defined ratio (1:1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It has been observed (Fig. 1) that the patients treated by the sulphur recovered in 19-20 days, whereas patient treated with benzyl benzoate recovered in 17-18 days, which are the normal reported recovery periods,⁶ but when we sequentially applied both benzyl benzoate and sulphur premixed in a ratio 1:1 to the patients in the third group, they recovered in 14-15 days.

The results, therefore, clearly indicate that the treatment period can easily be decreased by the combination of these two chemicals benzyl benzoate and sulphur by 5-6 days and thus reducing the recovery period down to 20% of the normal recovery period. There was 6 dropouts and only two cases of replaces reported during the whole study.

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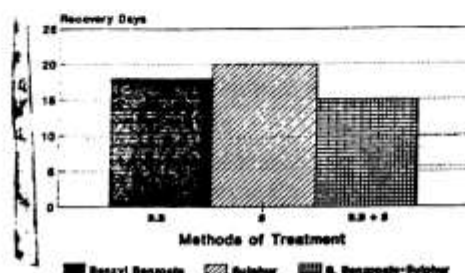


Fig. 1: Groups showing recovery time by different methods of treatment.

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