

Abstract

OBJECTIVE:

To isolate and identify fungal pathogens associated with dermatophytoses in diabetic patients and identify the spectrum of yeasts colonising diabetic foot ulcers at Kenyatta National Hospital.

DESIGN:

A cross sectional Laboratory based study.

SETTING:

The Kenyatta National Hospital diabetic clinic.

SUBJECTS:

Sixty one patients with diabetic foot ulcers from August to November 2009.

RESULTS:

The five most occurring pathogens were *Biopolaris hawaiiensis* (5.5%), *Trichophyton schoenleinii* (3.7%), *Aspergillus niger* (3.0%), *Trichophyton rubrum* (3.0%), *Fusarium oxysporum* (3.0%). Other moulds accounted for less than 3.0%. One suspected case (0.6%) of *Penicillium marneffeii* was isolated although it could not be ascertained due to its high containment requirement. Among the dermatophytes, the most occurring mould was *Trichophyton schoenleinii* (3.7%) while non-dermatophyte was *Biopolaris hawaiiensis* (5.5%). Eight pathogenic yeasts were identified with *C. parapsilosis* (6.1%) being the most common followed by *C. famata* (3.0%). Fungal infestation was highest in callus formation (78.6%).

CONCLUSION:

Fungal aetiological agents are significant cause of diabetic wound infection and may require antifungal intervention for successful management of diabetic foot ulcers.