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Incidence of superficial mycosis infection among children in some elementary schools in Benin City, Nigeria

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Background: Superficial mycosis is a common feature among school age children in developing countries, due to unhygienic environment where they reside and play. These diseases in and nails. The economic downturn of these countries makes it very difficult to purchase the necessary antimycotic drugs and remedies to combat these infections. Moreover, over crowding and close association with their play-mate can lead to outbreak of epidermic infections which can result in more serious and even fatal consequences, the need to audit the types of superficial mycosis among these children of school age cannot be overemphasised.

Methods: One hundred school children from selected primary schools in Egor Local Government area of Edo state were randomly recruited into the study. Consent was obtained from local Government Education Ministry before commencement of study. Skin swabs and hair swabs were collected

from the children and were delivered to the laboratory for processing with minimum delay. Swabs were cultured onto blood agar plates and Sabouraud agar slopes and incubated at 37°C overnight. Direct microscopic examination was done on the slides, taken off hairs placed on microscope slides containing few drops of potassium hydroxide and observed under the microscope using X10, and X40 objectives.

Results: Fifty percent of the children tested had various fungal infections ranging from *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, *Aspergillus spp.*, *Penicillium spp.*, *Candida albicans* and *Mucor spp.*

Conclusion: This study presents the isolation of various fungal species from children in some primary schools in Benin City, Nigeria.

Biography

Dr. Francis Oronsaye is presently working as an associate professor at University of Benin, Nigeria from where he pursued PhD in Medical Microbiology. After attaining doctorate, he served in various positions including lecturer, senior lecturer and principal investigator for various projects involved in the same university. He has attended more than 20 international conferences and delivered talks in his field of expertise. He is a member of International Research and Development Institute and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. He has published more than 50 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. He was also successful in designing a lotion for treating all kinds of superficial infections of bacterial and fungal origin. It is currently undergoing toxicology testing and is also awaiting NAFDAC registration.

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