

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Scabies is a common, intensely pruritic dermatoses caused by the mite *Sarcoptes scabiei* var *hominis*. It is highly contagious and transmitted by close skin to skin contact. Scabies remains a major health problem in terms of its contagious nature and the secondary infections which occurs as a result of this disease.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Aim of the study was to compare the efficacy of topical ivermectin and other scabicial agents and to assess the improvement in severity of pruritus and severity of lesions with treatment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Around 90 scabies patients were selected from the patients attending out patient clinic in dermatology department. After obtaining informed written consent, detailed history and thorough clinical examination of the patients was done. The patients were randomly allotted to one of the three treatment groups- GBHC, Permethrin and Ivermectin group. The treatment response was analysed in all the treatment groups based on reduction in the Severity of pruritus score and Severity of Lesions score. The response was then graded as good, moderate and poor.

RESULTS

Mean age of the study population was 27.66 years. Forty seven patients were males (52.2%) and forty three patients were females (47.8%). In Ivermectin group, 86.6% (26 out of 30) patients had good response to treatment whereas in Permethrin group, 36.7% (11 out of 30) patients had good response to treatment. In GBHC group, only 10% (3 out of 30) patients had good response to treatment. Ivermectin compared favourably to the other two drugs with nearly more than three fourths of the patients having significant improvement at an earlier stage while permethrin group had better response after twice application of the medicine when compared to GBHC group.

CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that topical Ivermectin can be considered as first line of treatment modality for scabies among other available agents as it causes earlier and maximum response. This study emphasizes the need for finding out newer effective drugs for treating scabies.

Keywords : Treatment of scabies, Ivermectin, Permethrin, GBHC