TITLE OF THE ABSTRACT:

Study of cutaneous manifestations in children presenting to paediatric emergency department

DEPARTMENT: Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy

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Key words: Paediatric emergency, prevalence, spectrum, clinical outcome, mortality

Objectives:

a) To study the clinical profile of skin manifestations in children < 16 years presenting to the paediatric emergency department over a period of 1 year.

b) To assess the impact of skin lesions on clinical outcome in hospitalized patients.

Methodology:

We recruited 203 patients with skin lesions between a study period of August 2015 to July 2016. All the patients were categorized into 7 based on their diagnosis. In a subset of patients who required hospitalization the clinical outcomes in terms of mortality, associated SIRS and duration of hospital stay was noted.

Results:

The prevalence of skin lesions noted in our study was 0.83% with a mean age of 4.88 ± 4.04 years and a male preponderance. The most frequent skin lesions noted in our
study were secondary to inflammatory disorders (50.24%) that included urticaria (n=45), Henoch Schönlein purpura (n=6), erythema multiforme (n=5), DRESS syndrome (n=4), toxic epidermal necrolysis (n=3), acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (n=2) and Kawasaki’s disease (n=2) followed by infections (n=91,44.82%) like HFMD (n=17), varicella (n=8), staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (n=8) and rickettsiae (n=5). The prevalence of viral infections was found to be significantly higher during summer months. 22.16% of patients were hospitalized in our study with most common among them being infections (37.77%). Among the hospitalized patients 25 had SIRS and two died, one secondary to purpura fulminans and another had febrile exanthem of probable viral etiology.

**Conclusion:**

- In this hospital based cross sectional study it was seen that the prevalence of dermatological disorders among paediatric emergency department attendees was 0.83% which was lower than that published in literature.
- The two main group of diseases were viral exanthema and urticaria.
- 22.16% were hospitalized which was higher than that reported in other studies.
- Among the hospitalized patients, 25 (55.55%) had SIRS however this did not influence the outcome.
- The outcome of hospitalized patients was good under the mortality of < 1%.