

Pedicolosis in Health Center of Shemiranat, Tehran, Iran

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Abstract: Pedicolosis is one of the extrinsic epidemic and parasitic diseases in humans; where seen as head, body and pubes louse in affected patients. This accounts for as important complication especially in the societies with reduced health principles. The most important way for transferring this disease is by contacting with clothes, personal effects, bed or furniture cover contaminated to the lice. This is a retrospective study by that all peoples affected by head lice (nit, nymph and adult) were examined by health professionals. Hairs of suspected ones especially hairs of head, nape of the neck and around ears were examined for nit and lice. The incidence of pedicolosis is more in females than males significantly. The most frequently contaminated age was 5-14 and by involving occupation, is mostly was among students. The most contaminating rate in the studied years was 2006 with the frequency of 78 cases than 4 years ago and minimum frequent rate was in 2002 with 21 cases. During 2002 to 2006 the most incidence rate of this contamination seen in the fall and in other years it was seen in winter. Nowadays, in most regions country, it is one of the most complicated health cases in the society particularly among students of primary schools. With regard to mentioned findings in this study and the role of each variable influenced on the incidence of this disease, employing health instructor or health nurse as well as training the health to the students and their family can has an important role in reducing the rate of contamination.

Key words: Pedicolosis • Louse • Nit • Health

INTRODUCTION

The initial steep for attaining to an ideal healthy society is completely observing the personal and public health by all members of the society. Pedicolosis is one of the extrinsic epidemics and parasitic diseases in humans, where seen as head, body and pubes louse in affected patients. This accounts for as important complication especially in the societies with reduced health principles [1].

This can be accounted as a suitable index for evaluating the health, cultural and economic status of civil and rural societies in most countries. In developed societies such as United States, even, 6-12 million people are affected by this parasite each year [2].

In affected people, direct effects of louse biting will inject proteins of its saliva to the body and results in host irritation and finally sensitivity. Frequent biting of this insect may cause allergy such as strict itching [3].

The most important way for directly transferring this disease is by direct contact with affected individuals and their personal effects like their clothes, bed, or furniture covers contaminated by nits or lice. The most effective way to campaign with this disease is using shampoos containing insecticide for affected ones and public training for being acknowledge with this disease and promoting their health level through the society [4].

Due to the health importance of this disease in recent years and various aspects of being pathogenic, it is necessary to study such insect in different societies especially in where there is reduced health. During 2002 to 2006, this study done on patients referred to the Shemiranat health center, Tehran aiming to: first, to study its incidence rate and second, to compare its incidence between this region and other regions through the country.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a retrospective study by that all peoples affected by head lice (nit, nymph and adult) were examined by health professionals. Hairs of suspected ones especially hairs of head, nape of the neck and around ears were examined for nit and lice. Individuals would be considered as affected while seeing any forms of louse; and so there was regulated a questionnaire containing questions such as personal health, age, gender, occupation, education, etc... by related professionals. Recorded data in the questionnaires analyzed by statistical methods after coding and results compared with Z and χ^2 tests.

RESULTS

This study indicates the incidence rate of pedicosis during 2002 to 2006. in this study there has been indicated that its incidence rate was significantly more in females than males ($p < 0.05$). The most frequently contaminated age was 5-14 and by involving occupation, is mostly was among students (Figure1).

Considering education, the incidence of pedicosis was frequent among under diploma and illiterates. The most contaminating rate in the studied

years was 2006 with the frequency of 78 cases than 4 years ago and minimum frequent rate was in 2002 with 21 cases (Table1).

Affected ones, considering residence, were studies as well and 2 studies indicated that the rate of disease during 2004 to 2006 was more frequent in individuals resident in city than rural region ($p < 0.05$).

During 2002 to 2006 the most incidence rate of this contamination seen in the fall and in other years it was seen in winter (Table1).

DISCUSSION

Nowadays, in most regions through the world like our country, it is one of the most complicated health cases in the society particularly among students of primary schools. Its incidence of course is variable in different parts of the world [1].

In another study done by Kamyabi in 2005 on the primary schools of Kerman indicates that the rate of affected girls was 95.5% and boys 0.5%. In this study, there was a significant relation between gender, age and parent education [6].

In another study by Nazeri, done in Hamadan in 2006 indicated that the incidence of this disease was 13.5% among girls and 0.7% among boys and the

Table 1: Studying the incidence of pollution to Pedicosis in patients referring to Health Center of Shemiranat suburb, Tehran, during 2002 to 2006

Table 1. Studying the incidence of pollution to Foliculosis in patients referring to Health Center of Shemiranat suburb, Tehran, during 2002 to 2006																
Sex	JOB						Education level				Place street		Season infection			
Years	Female	Male	Husbandry	Student	Employ	Free job	Illiterate	Under diploma	Diploma	Under diploma	Urban	Rural	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
2002	46	16	6	43	1	3	6	54	0	0	45	48	8	2	48	16
2003	40	4	1	37	2	4	1	37	4	2	39	39	24	5	5	32
2004	16	5	2	11	0	8	9	12	0	0	19	15	4	1	6	9
2005	62	4	6	52	2	6	5	59	1	1	59	7	24	7	4	31
2006	61	16	18	42	7	10	6	44	14	13	75	2	10	6	57	4

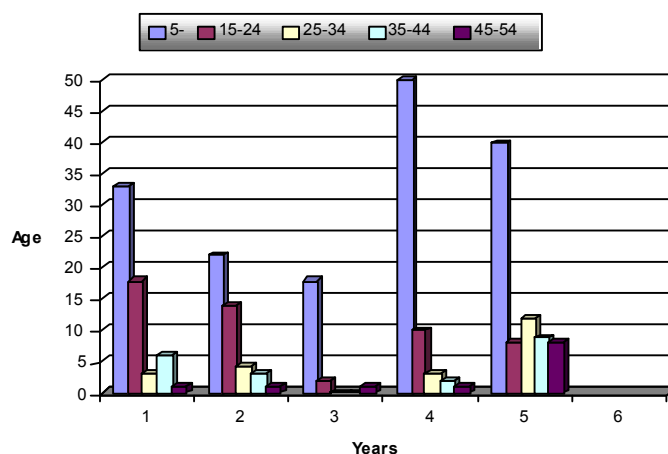


Fig. 1: Evaluation of Pedicosis in patients referring to Health Center of Shemiranat suburb, Tehran, during 2002 to 2006.

reason for more contaminated females may be due to their clothing, raised hairs, reduced health observation specially in the range of 6-12 years old; each one could increase its incidence among girls than boys we can see it in this study too [7]. In 2007, Borges studied the pediculosis on people in south east Brazil using two procedures, directly and cutting parts of suspected individuals and indicated that more incidence was among students of primary school. This is also coincident with results obtained of this study [5].

Motevalli Hagghi studied the rural and civil regions of Sari for this contamination and indicated that its rate was 3 fold in rural than civil regions that is reversely indicated than we found in this study during 2005-2006 in where there seen more incidence in the city than rural region ($p < 0.05$) but with regard to other studies obtained findings are more sophisticated [1].

Regarding to the findings of this study and the role of each variable influenced on the incident of pediculosis, employing health instructor or health nurse as well as training the health to the students and their family can has an important role in reducing the rate of contamination [8,9].

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