ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Knowledge Regarding Transmission, Prevention and Treatment of Scabies in Rural Area of District Lahore

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ABSTRACT

Background: Scabies is a preventable skin sickness that normally influences lower financial strata and individuals living in packed environment. Scabies is a profoundly infectious malady and is a noteworthy general medical issue in the creating scene, with a lopsided weight in youngsters living in poor, packed tropical zones. Scabies causes tingling, pruritic skin rashes and because of ensuing scratching, prompts optional bacterial disease with Streptococcus pyogenes and Staphylococcus aureus.
Methods: Descriptive cross-sectional epidemiological study was conducted in a rural area, Qasur having a population of 4000. The study participants were all the people residing in the area. The data was collected through face to face interviews with the help of the questionnaire and entered & analyzed using SPSS version-23. Chi-square test was applied to analyze and to find the association between the variables, level of significance (margin of error) was set at 0.05.
Duration of study: The study was conducted from 1st July to 15th August 2018.
Conclusions: This study found that 21% households in the area have scabies cases. The study found the respondents have a limited knowledge about the disease, its mode of transmission and preventive measures against it. The study highlighted a need of creating awareness regarding scabies at the community level.
Keywords: Transmission, prevention, treatment, scabies

INTRODUCTION

Scabies is an exceptionally infectious skin sickness, brought about by the minute bug, Sarcoptes scabiei. The condition is worldwide conveyed with an expected occurrence of 300 million cases for every year. In the vast majority of the rustic networks of the creating scene, the ecto parasitosis is endemic. It is a profoundly infectious sickness (pruritic dermatitis) which is progressively basic among the poor populace in the immature nations. Scabies causes tingling, pruritic skin rashes and because of ensuing scratching, prompts auxiliary bacterial contamination like Streptococcus pyogenes and Staphylococcus aureus . Among various manifestations pruritic papular injury, abrasion, and tunnels are progressively normal, and patients with nighttime pruritus would be regularly consider as scabies speculated cases. In Pakistan, scabies is considered as an extremely regular skin invasion especially in the rustic settings. This ailment is worldwide in circulation and for the most part endemic with high pervasiveness in poor urban and country networks of creating nations in light of its inappropriate administration, neediness and congestion.

METHODS

This descriptive cross sectional epidemiological study was conducted in a rural area, Qasur having a population of 4000. The study participants were all the people residing in the area from 1st July to 15th August 2018. The calculated sample size was 135. The data was collected through face to face interviews with the help of the questionnaire and entered & analyzed using SPSS version-23. Chi-square test was applied to analyze and to find the association between the variables, level of significance (margin of error) was set at 0.05. Non-probability convenience sampling technique was used.

The objective of the study was to find out the Knowledge, mode of transmission, prevention & treatment of scabies in a rural area of Qasur.

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RESULTS

This cross sectional community based epidemiological study was conducted in a rural setting qasur village to find out the prevalence of scabies and to determine the risk factors associated with scabies infestation. The participants were the residents of households in village. A total of 135 households were included in this study.
Figure 1: It describes that 54% respondents had no knowledge regarding scabies whereas 46% had some knowledge about the disease. Majority (80%) respondents did not know when itch becomes more severe, only 9% knew that it becomes severe at night. Around 46% respondents knew that scabies could be transmitted from person to person and 41% didn't know that it could be transmitted from one person to another. Majority (54%) respondents did not know its mode of transmission; some (35%) respondents thought that transmission of scabies is through contaminated clothes or contaminated towels, and rest (11%) thought that it could be transmitted by sharing of bed with an infected person.

Table-1: shows that about 39% respondents were of the view that scabies can be prevented; however majority (53%) didn't have any knowledge regarding its prevention. Twenty one percent families thought that scabies could be prevented by taking some preventive medication , 6% said that by avoiding sharing contaminated articles, 5% thought

by avoiding sharing bed with an infected person ,and 6% were of the view that it could be prevented by taking daily bath.Figure 2: 90% consulted Doctor, 7% takes herbal and homeopathic treatment and 3% took self medications.

Table 1 shows that 39% respondents were of the view that scabies can be prevented; however majority (53%) didn't have any knowledge regarding its prevention. Twenty one percent families thought that scabies could be prevented by taking some preventive medication , 6% said that by avoiding sharing contaminated articles, 5% thought by avoiding sharing bed with infected person and 6% were of the view that it could be prevented by taking daily bath.

Table-2: Although more cases of scabies occurred among those families in which respondents were educated to primary or had no formal education as compared to those who had higher education, but the significant association was not found between respondents education and occurrence of the disease(p=.355). More cases of scabies occurred among those families in which respondents had no formal education or were educated to primary level as compared to those who had higher education, but the study found no significant association between occurrence of the disease and respondents' education (p=.355)

Figure 1: Describes that 54% respondents had no knowledge regarding scabies whereas 46% had some knowledge about the disease. Around 46% respondents knew that scabies could be transmitted from person to person and 41% didn't know that it could be transmitted from one person to another. Majority (54%) respondents did not know its mode of transmission; some (35%) respondents thought that transmission of scabies is through contaminated clothes or contaminated towels, and rest (11%) thought that it could be due to sharing of bed with an infected person.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to knowledge for prevention of scabies

Can scabies be prevented?	**Frequency**	**%age**
Yes	53	39.3
No	10	7.4
Don't know	72	53.3
Total	135	100.0
Ways of prevention		
Avoiding sharing bed with infected person	7	5.2
Avoiding use of contaminated articles	8	5.9
Taking bath daily	8	5.9
Use of preventive medication	32	21.5
Don't know	83	61.5
Total	135	100.0

Table-2: Relationship of respondents' education with occurrence of scabies infestation

Respondents' education	**Scabies in families**		**Total**
	Yes	**No**	
no formal education	19 (21%)	71(79%)	90
primary education	7 (32%)	15(68%)	22
secondary education	2 (14%)	12(86%)	14
higher secondary education	1 (11%)	8 (89%)	9
Total	29	106	135

Fig 1: Respondents' knowledge regarding mode of transmission of scabies

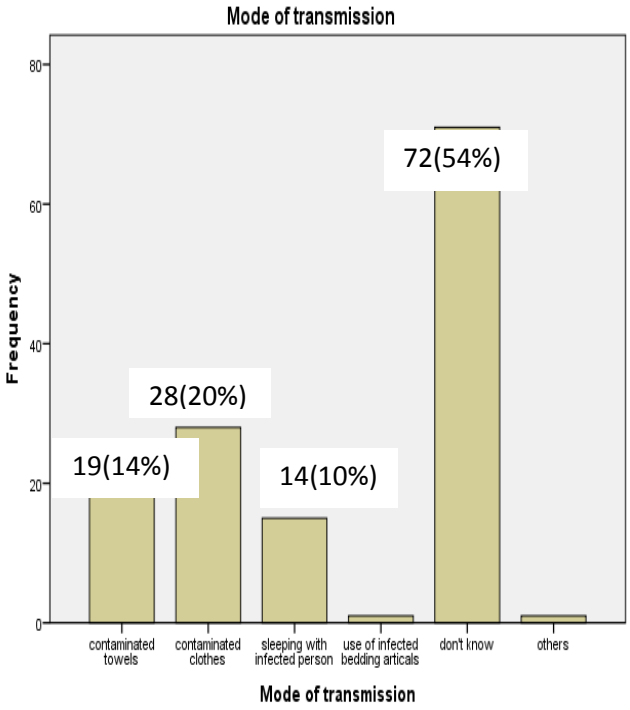
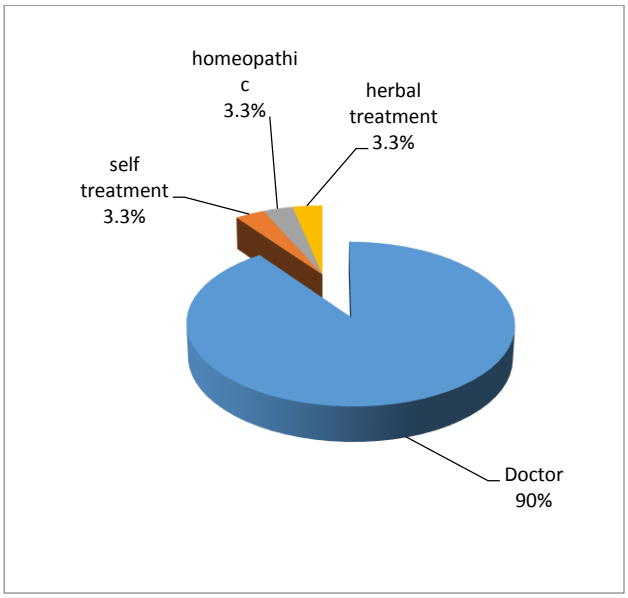


Fig. 2: Distribution of families according to treatment received.



DISCUSSION

Scabies is a preventable skin disease that usually affects the lower socio economic strata particularly those living in overcrowded. A total of 135 households were included in this study, selected through convenience sampling technique. Most (54%) of them had no knowledge about scabies, its mode of transmission or preventive measures. This is correlated in a research conducted in South

Kalimantan in 2015 which showed that 60% respondents had medium knowledge of scabies. Transmission of scabies mostly includes direct & indirect spread and occasionally sexual transmission of scabies can also occur. This study found that most (54%) of the respondents did not know that scabies could be transmitted from person to person. Although 46% respondents had some knowledge regarding its spread; some (35%) thought that transmission of scabies is through contaminated clothes or other contaminated articles, while others (11%) thought that scabies could be spread from sleeping with an infected person.

Most (61%) of the respondents had no awareness about the prevention of the disease, whereas some (39%) respondents thought that scabies could be prevented. The preventive measures they mentioned were: by taking some preventive medication (21%), by avoiding sharing contaminated articles (6%), by avoiding sharing bed with infected person (5%), and by taking frequent bath (6%). Globally, the prevalence rate of scabies ranged from 0.2% to 71.4% (Romani et al., 2015). This research indicated that 97% families consulted a doctor for treatment of scabies, while only few families taken homeopathic or herbal treatments and few had self treatment.

CONCLUSIONS

This study found that 21% households in this village have scabies cases. Although the respondents have a limited knowledge regarding scabies, its mode of transmission and its preventive measures, but treatment practices are good in the area. This study suggested a need for launching an awareness program about scabies at community level to increase knowledge of the residents regarding its mode of transmission, its preventive and control measures.

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