The Demodex mites and their relation with seborrheic and atopic dermatitis

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Background: Seborrhoeic dermatitis (SD) and Atopic dermatitis (AD) are common inflammatory skin disease for which no single cause has been found, although many factors have been implicated. These can present in a range of symptoms from mild to very severe and distressing. The mite Demodex folliculorum (DF) is most commonly seen in the pilosebaceous unit in humans. SD is located in areas that are rich in sebaceous glands which are also preferred by DF.

Aims: The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of SD and AD between the DF positive and DF negative patient and to investigate any possible relationship between the DF mites and the presence of SD and AD.

Methods: In this cross sectional study, we collect samples from the skin around the nasal tip of 180 randomized patients were referred to Amir Al-Momenin hospital dermatology clinic for skin erythema, scaling and pruritus to examine the presence of Demodicosis (DF) infestation under optical microscope. Then we assessed the prevalence of SD and AD between the DF positive and DF negative patient. Finally, data analysis using SPSS software and chi2 test were analyzed.

Results: Our study show no significant association between The Demodicosis (DF) with SD (p=0.68) and AD (P=0.70) prevalence.

Conclusion: Accordingly to the result of this study, the eradication of Demodex mites probably is not effective to reduce the prevalence of both Seborrheic dermatitis and atopic dermatitis; although, further investigation on a larger scale in a case-control study in this area is recommended.

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