Embracing feline affection with caution: Unveiling the realm of cutaneous sporotrichosis

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Cutaneous sporotrichosis is a fungal infection of the skin, subcutaneous tissue, and lymphatics caused by Sporothrix schenckii. This research aimed to identify the factors affecting treatment outcomes of cutaneous sporotrichosis cases seen in Terengganu. **Methods:** This is a retrospective cohort study, reviewing medical records of cutaneous sporotrichosis cases from a dermatology referral centre in Terengganu over a 4-year span (2016-2019). This study included cases that achieved complete resolution of their lesion, with time to recovery as the outcome measure. **Results:** A total of 128 cutaneous sporotrichosis cases were included in the analysis. The mean age of the study population was 44.1 (SD=18.43) years, with 70.3% being females. A large percentage (73.4%) had contact with cats, while 19.5% of the cases had gardening activities. Oral itraconazole 120 (93.8%) was the primary treatment, with a mean time to recovery of 19.2 (SD=6.25) weeks. The presence of gardening activities (mean time to recovery of 21.73 vs 16.76 weeks (p=0.002; 95%CI=1.79,8.14) and contact with cats (mean time to recovery of 21.50 vs 16.99 weeks (p=0.004; 95%CI=1.47,7.55) were two significant factors that prolonged the time to recovery. Other investigated factors did not show any significant association towards the recovery time. **Conclusion:** This study identified the presence of gardening activities and contact with cats as the significant factors affecting the time to recovery in cutaneous sporotrichosis cases in Terengganu.