

# EPIDEMIC OF MICROSPORUM CANIS INFECTION IN THE REGION OF LJUBLJANA

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## ABSTRACT

*Background.* In the last decades the incidence of *Microsporum canis* infection has been increasing in many European countries. In many regions of Slovenia microsporia has also aroused much epidemiological concern.

*Materials and Methods.* The patients infected with *Microsporum canis*, treated in the Department of Dermatology in Ljubljana during the period from 1995 to 1997 were evaluated. The diagnosis was confirmed by microscopic examination of skin and hair specimens and by culture on Sabouraud's medium with added chloramphenicol and actidion.

*Results.* During the above mentioned period 4109 positive cultures were assessed in patients, examined in our mycological laboratory. *Microsporum canis* has been the most frequently isolated dermatophyte. Tinea corporis was in 76% and Tinea capitis in 97% of cases caused by *Microsporum canis*. Patients were mostly children under 15 years of age with only one third of patients being adults. In younger patients scalp and face were involved most frequently compared to older patients in whom infection was commonly localized on the extremities. According to anamnestic data cats were the main origin of infection in our patients but they must have been asymptotically infected in many instances.

*Conclusion.* *Microsporum canis* infection remains a serious epidemiological problem in the region of Ljubljana. Consistent and integrated efforts of medical and veterinary services associated with health education are required in future to eliminate further spread of infection.

## KEY WORDS

*Microsporum canis* infection, epidemiology, Ljubljana area

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## INTRODUCTION

During the last 30 years *Microsporum canis* infection became a serious epidemiological problem in many regions of the world (1,2), especially in the South

European Mediterranean countries (3). Before *Microsporum canis* infection was first registered in Slovenia, the incidence of this infection has been increasing

