

## TERBINAFINE IN THE TREATMENT OF TINEA CAPITIS

V. Peharda, M. Kaštelan, L. Čabrijan, M. Saftić and F. Gruber

### ABSTRACT

*Background.* Tinea capitis is a common dermatomycosis in children. A number of systemic and topical agents can be used in treating tinea capitis. Terbinafine is a new allylamine antifungal agent highly effective against dermatophytes.

*Objective.* The efficacy and tolerability of terbinafine in the treatment of tinea capitis in children was studied.

*Methods.* A total of sixteen children with mycologically confirmed fungal infection caused by *Microsporum canis* were enrolled in the study. The patients' age ranged from 6-12 (mean 8.3 years). Patients received 125 mg terbinafine daily for two months.

*Results.* At the end of the trial 14 patients were evaluable: 13 with superficial infection and one case of Kerion. Clinical cure was achieved in 10 (71.4%) and mycological cure in 11 (78.5%) children. The drug was well tolerated with one patient reporting mild gastrointestinal problems.

*Conclusion.* Our results indicate that terbinafine once daily is safe and well tolerated, but not always effective in the treatment of microsporiasis capitis.

### KEY WORDS

*tinea capitis, terbinafine, treatment*

### INTRODUCTION

Tinea capitis is a common dermatomycosis in children. During the last few years *Microsporum canis* infections were the most frequent cause of superficial tinea capitis in the Rijeka region. The disease is highly contagious and can be acquired from pets, such as sick cats and dogs as well as from infected persons. It can be also spread among

family members, school children, and infants in day-care centers. The lesions on the scalp are characterized by the formation of one or a few round areas covered with gray scales in which the hair is broken a few millimeters above the skin (1-3).

A number of systemic and topical agents can be used in treating tinea capitis. Some of the conventionally used antifungal drugs may be ineffective or may cause serious side effects. Oral antimycotic

