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.