PARASSITOLOGIA
Rivista quadrimestrale dell'Università di Roma «La Sapienza»
Organo Ufficiale della Società Italiana di Parassitologia

European Federation of Parasitologists

EMOP VII

ABSTRACTS

VII EUROPEAN MULTICOLLOQUIUM OF PARASITOLOGY
2-6 September 1996, Parma, Italy
HUMAN DEMODECOSIS: PREVALENCE OF DEMODEX BREVIS AKBULATOVA IN SUBJECTS WITH SEBORRHEOEIC ALOPECIA

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Principato et al. (1995,1996) have recently demonstrated that scalp demodecosis in subjects suffering from seborrheoeic alopecia is a recurrent condition and that Demodex brevis and Demodex folliculorum act as carriers of bacteria. In the human alopecic scalp D. folliculorum and D. brevis can be found, associated in the pilosebaceous components, respectively at the level of the hair follicles and of the sebaceous glands. Reported herein is the result of a survey carried out on 46 subjects positive for scalp demodecosis: n.18 were affected by heavy seborrheoeic alopecia of the types VI,VII,VIII of Hamilton’s scale (1951), n.13 were affected by seborrheoeic alopecia of type V and n.15 showed a light loss of hair and an anomalous sebaceous hypersecretion (alopecia of the types III,IV). From this study it resulted that: 1) in subjects with alopecia of the types VI,VII,VIII, D.brevis was the prevailing species (from 80% to 100% of the parasite population); 2) in subjects with alopecia of type V, two different situations were revealed in relation to the age of the individuals: a) in those up to 22/25 years old, D. brevis was always prevailing; b) in those 40 years old or more, D. folliculorum was prevailing or the two species were present with very low and similar percentages; 3) Two situations were present also in subjects with a light loss of hair (alopecia of the types III,IV): a) in those aged 18/22, one of two species prevailed on the other; b) those in an age range of 35-45 years showed the prevalence of D. folliculorum. After some years’ study on the evolution of this parasitosis in some subjects with different parasitic prevalences, we can emphasise that seborrheoeic alopecia of the types VI,VII,VIII is reached only when in the scalp D. brevis is originally prevailing, whereas when D. folliculorum is prevailing, hair is thinning or is lost only partially. This datum can be of great interest to reveal precociously the evolution of seborrheoeic alopecia in young people starting losing their hair. Mites of Demodex genus are not the only cause of seborrheoeic alopecia, but certainly they represent an important element in the pathogenic process leading to the complete loss of hair. Even if the seborrheoeic alopecia is, as commonly believed, of genetic origin, the role of D. brevis could be at least to make that hereditary process heavier and complete.