

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-52502

Date: 27-06-2025

Title: COMPARATIVE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF TOPICAL AND ORAL ANTIFUNGAL AGENTS IN THE TREATMENT OF TINEA CAPITIS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			✓	
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity		✓		
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: Dr Aamina

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Evaluation:

This manuscript provides a detailed and comprehensive overview of the various aspects of ringworm (tinea), with particular emphasis on *tinea capitis*, exploring its causes, transmission, risk factors, diagnostic methods, and treatments. The systematic review approach is evident through the synthesis of recent and authoritative literature. It successfully connects clinical, environmental, and social dimensions of the infection, underscoring its impact and management challenges, especially in vulnerable populations. The integration of both conventional antifungal treatments and emerging therapies like laser therapy and artificial intelligence highlights the study's contemporary relevance.

Abstract Evaluation:

The abstract succinctly outlines the primary focus of the paper—causes, symptoms, treatments, and challenges of ringworm—with special emphasis on *tinea capitis*. It identifies drug resistance and hygiene as core concerns and brings attention to both physical and psychological consequences of the condition. While brief, it manages to capture the scope and key messages of the study effectively.

Introduction Evaluation:

The introduction is clear and well-grounded in current scientific knowledge. It effectively contextualizes *tinea capitis* as part of a broader dermatophytic infection problem, noting its transmission vectors, typical environments, and common risk factors. The references to both global health bodies (CDC, WHO) and peer-reviewed literature lend credibility and show that the study is built upon a solid evidence base.

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REVIEWER'S REPORT

The transition from general dermatophytic infections to *tinea capitis* is seamless, and the mention of its higher incidence in children, public spaces, and tropical climates reinforces the public health significance of the issue. The discussion of comorbidities like diabetes and immunocompromised states deepens the medical context and emphasizes the need for comprehensive management approaches.

Scientific Merit and Scope:

The manuscript offers a well-rounded analysis of both topical and systemic antifungal treatments. Although the detailed comparative data are not provided in the introduction, the text alludes to a thorough review of drug efficacy, side effects, and recurrence patterns, which are all critical elements in clinical decision-making.

The inclusion of antifungal resistance as a rising concern adds a necessary layer of urgency, and the psychological and social burdens of the infection are appropriately emphasized. This broadens the scope from a purely clinical focus to one that considers holistic patient care.

Strengths:

- Strong contextual grounding and relevance in public health.
- Balanced exploration of environmental, behavioral, and physiological risk factors.
- Consideration of both traditional and emerging diagnostic and treatment methods.
- Well-cited and integrated literature support throughout.

Language and Structure:

The language is academically appropriate, fluent, and accessible. Terminology is used accurately, and the structure flows logically from general background to specific focal areas such as transmission vectors, risk groups, and treatment challenges. The paper also makes effective use of cited data to support its assertions.

Conclusion (from abstract and introduction):

Although not explicitly labeled, the implied conclusions stress the importance of strengthening preventive strategies, improving hygiene awareness, enhancing access to affordable treatment, and considering novel technologies in diagnostics and therapeutics. This points to a multidisciplinary approach in managing *tinea capitis*, which is aligned with current trends in dermatological and infectious disease research.

Overall Verdict:

The manuscript is a well-researched and insightful synthesis of current knowledge on *tinea capitis* and its treatment. It bridges clinical science with public health concerns and offers a thoughtful perspective on future directions. The inclusion of socio-behavioral elements and innovative technologies adds depth and

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modern relevance, making this a valuable contribution to both clinical practice and health policy literature.