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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56032

**Title: Study on Prevalence , Identification and Antifungal Susceptibility pattern of Dermatophytosis in a Tertiary care Hospital .**

**Recommendation:**

Accept after major revision .....

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

Reviewer Name: Dr. Sudheer Aluru

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

This manuscript reports a 24-month prospective hospital-based study on dermatophytosis, focusing on prevalence, species distribution, and antifungal susceptibility patterns in 100 clinically suspected cases, of which 52 were culture positive. The topic is highly relevant in the Indian and tropical context, particularly in light of rising case numbers, steroid misuse, and concerns about antifungal resistance. The collection of original clinical and microbiological data, ethical approval, and inclusion of culture and clinical images are notable strengths.

The data themselves appear potentially valuable, but the manuscript in its current form suffers from severe language problems, weak structure, confusing data presentation, minimal statistical analysis, and insufficiently critical discussion of methodology—especially antifungal susceptibility testing. In its present state, the paper reads more like a laboratory report or draft thesis chapter than a polished scientific article.

With a comprehensive rewrite, restructuring, and methodological clarification, the study could become publishable, but the revisions required are extensive.

## REVIEWER'S REPORT

### Major Comments

1. Abstract- A structured abstract with Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusion is missing and must be added.
2. The Results section is difficult to follow. Tables are embedded within the text and formatted inconsistently. Several multi-part tables (e.g., 13a–13e; 14a–14e) should be consolidated or moved to supplementary material. The narrative text should focus on key findings rather than repeating numbers from tables.
3. The Discussion is overly long and unfocused, mixing results, literature, and speculation. It should be reorganized to:
  - Summarize the main findings first
  - Compare results with recent regional studies
  - Interpret antifungal susceptibility patterns (high itraconazole activity, low griseofulvin performance)
  - Discuss methodological limitations (disk diffusion, lack of molecular testing)
  - Address steroid misuse and socioeconomic factors
  - Clearly state study limitations
4. Antifungal Susceptibility Testing - Disk diffusion is not standardized for dermatophytes and this limitation must be explicitly acknowledged. The manuscript must state the breakpoints or criteria used to define sensitivity or resistance; without these, the reported percentages are not interpretable. Preparation of griseofulvin disks should be clarified, and references to CLSI microbroth dilution methods should be corrected if they were not applied.
5. Statistical Analysis - The study is mainly descriptive, yet regression analysis is mentioned without explanation. Statistical software, tests used, and significance thresholds must be specified. Group comparisons (age, sex, comorbidities, species, susceptibility patterns) should be performed where appropriate, with p-values and confidence intervals.
6. Too many tables fragment the Results section. Related tables should be merged and some moved to supplementary files.
7. Figures and Images Figures lack numbering, captions, and in-text citations. Each image should be clearly labeled and referenced in the manuscript.

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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

### Minor Comments

- The title should be grammatically refined (e.g., “Study on the Prevalence, Identification, and Antifungal Susceptibility Patterns of Dermatophytosis”).
- Scientific names should be italicized consistently throughout the text.
- Units and symbols (% , mm,  $\mu$ L,  $^{\circ}$ C) should follow uniform formatting.
- Several long paragraphs should be broken into shorter, focused ones for readability.
- Each figure should be numbered sequentially and accompanied by a descriptive caption.