

Available online on 15.06.2024 at <http://ajprd.com>

# Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical Research and Development

Open Access to Pharmaceutical and Medical Research

© 2013-24, publisher and licensee AJPRD, This is an Open Access article which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited

Open  Access

Review Article

## Review on Skin Disease Seborrheic Dermatitis Along With Its Treatment and Formulary

**Rutuja Bhujbal\*, Shreya Musale, Mrudula Barge, Nishigandha Naikawadi**

YSPM'S, Yashoda Technical Campus, Faculty of Pharmacy, Wadhe, Satara.

### ABSTRACT

Seborrheic Dermatitis is common inflammation of the skin, occurring most often on the face, scalp and chest. It is closely related to infantile seborrheic dermatitis, or diaper rash. Seborrheic Dermatitis is particularly common in patient with Parkinson's disease or with HIV/ AIDS. Yeast of the genus *Malassezia* has long been regarded as a main predisposing factor, even though causal relationship has not been firmly established. Additional predisposing factors have been described, including sebaceous activity, host immunity (especially HIV infection), epidermal barrier integrity, skin microbiota, endocrine and neurologic factors, and environmental influence.

After synthesizing key evidence from the literature, we propose that intrinsic host factors, such as changes in the amount or composition of sebum and/or defective epidermal barrier, rather than *Malassezia*, may form the basis of SD pathobiology. The recent resurgence of interest in *Malassezia* yeasts has revived the old hypothesis that seborrheic dermatitis is caused by an altered relationship between these skin commensals and the host. Moreover, the success of antifungal medications in treating seborrheic dermatitis provides new evidence for this view.

**Keywords:** Seborrheic Dermatitis; Erythema; Greasy Scales; Cradle Cap; Diaper Rash;

**ARTICLE INFO:** Received 09 Feb 2024; Review Complete 15 April 2024; Accepted 25 May 2024 ; Available online 15 June. 2024



### Cite this article as:

Bhujbal R, Musale S, Barge M, Naikawadi N, Review on Skin Disease Seborrheic Dermatitis Along With Its Treatment and Formulary, Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical Research and Development. 2024; 12(3):114-118 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22270/ajprd.v12i3.1404>

\*Address for Correspondence:

Rutuja Bhujbal, YSPM'S, Yashoda Technical Campus, Faculty of Pharmacy, Wadhe, Satara.

### INTRODUCTION

Seborrheic Dermatitis is chronic, recurring, cutaneous condition that causes erythema and flaking, sometimes appearing as macules or plaque with dry white or moist oily scales. (1) In adults, it commonly occurs in areas with high concentrations of sebaceous glands. The face and scalp are the most frequently affected areas, and involvement of multiple sites is common. (2) Dandruff is regarded as mild non inflammatory form of seborrheic dermatitis.

It usually goes away on its own by the time the child turns one year old. It starts within the first three months of life and is moderate, self-limiting, and self-resolving. (4)

The cause is not well understood, but appears to be related to the composition of sebaceous gland secretions, the proliferation of *Malassezia* yeasts, and the host immune response. (2)

Between 30 to 83% of immunocompromised individuals, particularly those with AIDS, have this condition on a regular basis. SD is frequently observed in association with other skin conditions, such as pityriasis versicolor, rosacea, blepharitis and/or ocular irritation, acne vulgaris, and *Malassezia* folliculitis. (6) The estimated prevalence of SD in young adults is 1-3 percent. (19)

### Definition-

Seborrheic Dermatitis (SD) is chronic recurrent common skin inflammation affect sebaceous glands rich areas of skin causes scaling. (21)

Dermatitis, also known as eczema, is inflammation of the skin. It is characterised by itchy, erythematous, vesicular, weeping and crusting patches. The term eczema is also commonly used to describe atopic dermatitis, also known as atopic eczema. (22)

## ETIOLOGY

Seborrheic dermatitis typically develops in locations with the largest density of these glands, excessive sebaceous gland activity and sebum overproduction may be the cause.<sup>(14)</sup>

Several factors are involved in the development of this disorder: hormone levels, individual lipid compositions, overactivity of the sebaceous glands, fungal infections, nutritional deficits, neuropsychiatric factors, and environmental conditions, in addition to host susceptibilities such as sebum production.<sup>(28)</sup> SSD begins at puberty, indicating a hormonal impact of androgens on the pilosebaceous unit. This influences the lipid composition and activity of sebum glands, as well as encouraging the establishment of *Malassezia*.<sup>(14)</sup> A lipophilic fungus called *Malassezia* spp. is a typical component of the cutaneous microbiota of humans.<sup>(19)</sup>

### Malassezia Species-

A growing body of research suggests that *Malassezia* spp. represent a key etiologic factor in the development of SD. *Malassezia* species became less prevalent with antifungal therapy with the skin lesions going away. This is most likely the best proof yet that *Malassezia* species are crucial to the onset of SD. Lipophilic yeasts known as *Malassezia* spp. are common skin dwellers.<sup>(6)</sup> The face, scalp, and trunk are lipid-rich anatomic regions that are frequently affected by *Malassezia* spp. SD patients also have these conditions.<sup>(27)</sup> After significant discussion in the literature regarding whether yeasts are a secondary phenomenon or of main pathogenic significance, it is now evident that the development of seborrheic dermatitis is caused by lipid-dependent *Malassezia* yeasts, particularly *Malassezia restricta* and *globosa*, which are known for their high lipase activity. People who have dandruff or seborrheic dermatitis typically have these two organisms on their scalps.<sup>(11)</sup>

Skin sebum promotes the growth of *P. ovale*, or *Malassezia*, and hence the development of SD. Consequently, keeping reserves of leftover Sebum (from unhygienic conditions, for instance) may predispose a patient to developing the disease, as is the case with neuropathic people. The fact that SD improves when treated with antifungal medicine is proof positive that *Malassezia* and SD are related.<sup>(5)</sup>

Our findings, which have not been thoroughly examined before, provide credence to the theory that the hyphal form of *Malassezia* may be one of the pathogenic elements contributing to SD. This clinical observation opens the door to additional research on the underlying molecular processes of SD *Malassezia* hyphal pathogenicity.<sup>(27)</sup>

### Other factors-

- Additionally, it has been noted that people with problems of the central nervous system seem to be more

likely to acquire widespread seborrheic dermatitis, which is frequently resistant to therapy. It has been postulated that in some instances, the infection is the consequence of excessive sebum pooling brought on by immobility, which encourages yeast growth.<sup>(11)</sup>

- By initiating the initial immunological reaction against *Malassezia*, the innate immunity plays a crucial part. The federal government of long-term immunological inhibition SD is significantly more common among people with conditions such as hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS, alcoholic pancreatitis, organ transplant recipients, and various malignancies.<sup>(12)</sup>
- Since there are no discernible variations in yeast carriage levels between healthy controls and SD patients, it has been hypothesised that a genetic susceptibility to this illness involves an inflammatory or immunological response of some kind.<sup>(6)</sup> Additionally, it has been proposed that compromised cell-mediated immunity could promote fungus survival in the skin.<sup>(1)</sup>
- Dandruff and SD are known for their greasy hair, dry scalp, and oily and dry skin, which might be signs of increased sebaceous gland activity and a compromised epidermal barrier. work<sup>(12)</sup>

## SYMPTOMS

The feeling of tightness that is associated with the symptom of dry scalp comes from compromised function of the stratum corneum barrier. The most common methods for evaluating skin dryness signs are various equipment based onelectrical properties of the skin surface or trans epidermal water loss (TEWL) measurement; subjective self-evaluation ratings are usually used for tightness assessment.<sup>(16)</sup>

As it becomes worse, you'll notice an increase in skin flakes, scalp inflammation, and greasy, white or even yellow spots on your skin. You may see these skin patches on your face, nose, eyelids, chest, or armpits in addition to your scalp.<sup>(20)</sup>

Some common symptoms are <sup>(20, 21, 22, 23, 16)</sup>

- Erythema
- Papules
- Dry, cracked skin
- Painful skin with stinging or burning
- Pruritus
- Sensation of tightness "dryness"
- Cradle cap
- Rashes that appears redder in individuals with white skin and darker or lighter in those with brown or black skin
- Oily skin patches on the scalp, face, sides of nose, eyebrows, ears, eyelids, chest, armpits, or beneath the breasts that are coated in flaky white or yellow scales or crust.

## RISK FACTORS

Table: 1

Risk factor	Description
Immunodeficiency	Lymphoma Renal Transplantation HIV/ AIDS
Neurological and Psychiatric disorder	Parkinson disease Stroke Down syndrome Alzheimer disease
Life style factors	Poor nutrition Unhygienic practises
Exposure to drug treatment	Lithium Dopamine antagonists Psoralen Immunosuppressants
Lipids and hormones	Distribution of lesion on the body corresponds to distribution of sebaceous glands, with excess sebum found on the scalp, chest, eyebrows, ears

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Although the pathophysiology of SD's sequence of events is uncertain, the majority of publications concur that the three primary prerequisites are as follows: colonisation of *Malassezia*, lipid secretion by sebaceous glands and a predisposition of the immune system<sup>(8)</sup>

**Mechanism for the pathogenesis of seborrheic dermatitis include**<sup>(2) (8)</sup>

- Alterations in the microbiota of the skin.
- Disruption of the skin barrier leading to clinically noticeable erythema, pruritus, and scaling
- An impaired immune response to *Malassezia* spp. related to a decreased T-cell response and complement activation.
- cutaneous neurotransmitter disruption.
- Disturbances of the epidermal barrier associated with genetic factors.
- *Malassezia* spp. are also responsible for the breakdown of sebum and ingesting saturated fatty acids, that throw away the skin's lipid a state of equilibrium The division of *Malassezia* spp. to SD lesions and the significant improvement in SD adhering to antifungal medication provide more evidence of their involvement.
- Abnormal keratinocyte shedding

## TREATMENT

The strategy will change according on the patient's age, the condition's distribution, and its severity. It is imperative to

talk about general skincare best practices, such as using a soap alternative and the right amount of moisturising<sup>(2)</sup>

While there isn't a permanent cure for SD, there are a number of effective treatment methods that can manage the illness. The goal of therapy is to manage acute flare-ups. focuses on sustaining remission with prolonged treatment.<sup>(7)</sup>

Imidazole was the most often utilised topical medication, with corticosteroids coming in second at 59.9%. topical calcineurin inhibitors (27.2%),

hydrating/emollient/nutritive therapies (30.7%), and antimycotics (35.1%). (13) Intermittent use of site-appropriate potencies or steroid-sparing formulations, such as topical 1% pimecrolimus, can help reduce the side effects of topical corticosteroids.<sup>(2)</sup>

### Topical treatment -

Topical corticosteroids combined with nutritional, hydration, and emollient therapies (7.5%). The most common concurrent medications given for non- cutaneous disorders were anxiolytics (2.0%) and antidepressants (2.1%) (13)

1. SD of the Scalp in Adults-

2. It is highly advised that adults utilise topical medications with antifungal (ketoconazole, ciclopirox, miconazole), anti-inflammatory (betamethasone valerate, clobetasol propionate), or keratolytic/humectant (propylene glycol) qualities.<sup>(9)</sup>

## 3. SD of the Scalp in Children-

4. Topical antifungals (1% ciclopirox shampoo, 1% KTZ cream/shampoo, 2.5% SS shampoo), anti-inflammatory (1% hydrocortisone cream/lotion), or keratolytic agents (3% salicylic acid combined with 1.5% ciclopirox shampoo, lactamide): efficacy and safety shampoo with monoethanolamide.<sup>(2)</sup>

## 5. Nonscalp SD-

6. For mild-to-moderate SD on the face and/or body, the use of topical antifungal (KTZ, ciclopirox, clotrimazole) and anti-inflammatory (desonide, hydrocortisone, lithium succinate/gluconate, topical

pimecrolimus/tacrolimus) medicines is strongly advised.<sup>(9)</sup>

**Oral Agents-**

Before starting oral treatment for ISD, a professional team review is advised due to the lack of high-quality safety and effectiveness data. Anti retroviral therapy often improves SD in HIV-AIDS patients, while L-dopa medication may help improve SD in Parkinson's disease patients.

Prospective treatments for SD may concentrate on enhancing skin barrier performance or replenishing the lipid composition of the skin's surface.<sup>(2, 10).</sup>

**FORMULARY** <sup>(25, 26)</sup>**Table: 2**

Drug (Reference)	Presentation	Application frequency
<b>Corticosteroids</b>		
Hydrocortisone	1% to 2.5% cream	Twice daily
Clotrimazole+Hydrocortisone	1% cream	Twice daily
<b>Immunomodulator</b>		
Tacrolimus	0.1% ointment	Twice daily
Pimecrolimus	1% cream	Twice daily
Terbinafine	1% cream 250 or 500 mg tablet	Once daily Twice daily
<b>Antifungals</b>		
Salicylic Acid	2% shampoo With addition of 5% coal tar shampoo With addition of 2% sulphur ointment	Once per week Once- twice per week  Twice daily
Ketoconazole	2% gel 2% cream Foam Shampoo	Once daily Twice daily Twice daily Once- twice per week
Zinc pyrithione	1% shampoo	Once daily for one week, then three times per day
Ciclopirox	1% shampoo 0.77% gel	Twice in week Once daily
Selenium sulphide	1% to 5% shampoo	Twice in week

**CONCLUSION**

SD is a common skin condition seen frequently in clinical practice. Despite its frequency, much controversy remains regarding its pathogenesis. This controversy extends to its classification in the spectrum of cutaneous diseases, having been classified as a form of dermatitis, or a fungal disease,

or a disease closely related with psoriasis. As a result treatments vary, ranging from topical corticosteroids to topical antifungals and AMPs

SD subjects should be warned about the various precipitating conditions described above, including intake of some drugs, nutritional deficiency, and concurrent



immunosuppression and/or comorbidities. Finally, the role of environmental factors (cold, low humidity, excessive sun exposure), physical/psychological stress, unhealthy lifestyle (alcohol consumption), wrong or inadequate cosmetic use, that may contribute to worsen SD, should also be considered

Some studies also reported a protective role of Cuti bacterium in maintaining healthy skin barrier function through elevating the water content of the stratum corneum. Further studies focusing on the interaction between different microbes and the host and microbes can provide better insight into the role of microbial alterations in the pathogenesis of SD/DF.

## REFERENCES

1. CMC article on seborrheic dermatitis JEADV (2014) by AK Gupta
2. National library of medicine on seborrheic dermatitis by Dan Tucker and Sadia Masood (last updated – February 16, 2023)
3. Research article by Anais Brasileiros de dermatologia 2020
4. Seborrheic dermatitis book by apple bodemer MD (2014, updated 2020)
5. Review article on diagnosis and treatment of seborrheic dermatitis by Gary W Clark et al. Am Fam Physician, 2015
6. Seborrheic dermatitis: topical therapeutics and formulation design Sean E Mangion et al. Eur J Pharm Biopharm. 2023 Apr.
7. Clio Dessinioti MD, Andreas Katsambas, Clinics in dermatology 2013; 31(4):343- 351.
8. Treatment of seborrheic dermatitis: a comprehensive review by Luis J. Borda, Marina Perper and Jonette E. Keri 2021
9. Federica Dall'Oglio, Maria Rita Nasca, Carlo Gerbino and Giuseppe Micali Review An overview of diagnosis and management of seborrheic dermatitis volume 15; 2022
10. Seborrheic dermatitis and dandruff: A comprehensive review by Luis J. Borda and Tongyu C. Wikramanayake, published online 2015 Dec 15
11. Safe and effective treatment of seborrheic dermatitis, volume 83, June 2009, by Seborrheic dermatitis – looking beyond Malassezia Review, volume 28, first published 16 July, 2019 by Tongyu C. Wikramanayake, Luis J. Borda, Mariya Miteva, Ralf Paus
12. Original article Clinical and therapeutic profile and quality of life of patients with Seborrheic dermatitis, volume 98 by J. Peyri, M. Lleonart the Spanish group of the SEBDERM study , 2019
13. Review article Investigations of seborrheic dermatitis. Part I. The role of selected cytokines in the pathogenesis of seborrheic dermatitis Ewa Trznadel-Grodzka, Marcin Błaszczkowski, Helena Rotsztejn Published: 2012; 11-14
14. Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology/ volume 28, issue 11/ by D. Linder, J. Dreiherr, A. Zampetti, F. Sampogna, A.D. Cohen, 2014
15. A Comprehensive Pathophysiology of Dandruff and Seborrheic Dermatitis -- Towards a More Precise Definition of Scalp Health by Schwartz, James R.; Messenger, Andrew G.; Tosti, Antonella; Todd, Gail; Hordinsky, Maria; Hay, Roderick J.; Xuemin Wang; Zachariae, Claus; Kerr, Kathy M.; Henry, James P.; Rust, Rene C.; Robinson, Michael K.
16. J Clin Aesthet Dermatol. 2009 Nov; 2(11): 14–17. PMID: PMC2923939 PMID: 20725575 (PubMed)
17. Kenneth J McGinley, James J Leyden, Richard R Marples, M.R.C. Path, Albert M Kligman, Journal of investigative dermatology, 1975; 646, June 1975, original article Quantitative Microbiology of the Scalp in Non-Dandruff, Dandruff, and Seborrheic Dermatitis by International Journal of Dermatology/ volume 51, issue 1, 2019
18. <https://www.hhclinics.co.uk/hair-loss/hair-loss-sclpe-conditions/seborrheic-dermatitis-hair-loss/>
19. Seborrheic dermatitis slide share, Feb 21, 2014 by Daifallah Almansouri
20. Dermatitis slide share, Jul 15, 2020 by Om Verma
21. <https://stlukes-glenrothes.org/?c=contact-dermatitis-symptoms-causes-treatment-9-tt-JqRvp5sG>
22. Article Seborrheic dermatitis and its relationship with Malassezia spp by Silvia Restrepo and Adriana Celis
23. Review History of Seborrheic Dermatitis: Conceptual and Clinico-Pathologic Evolution
24. Angela Cristina Akel Mameri et al. Skinmed. 2017 Review article A Comprehensive Pathophysiology of Dandruff and Seborrheic Dermatitis – Towards a More Precise Definition of Scalp Health James R. Schwartz, Andrew G. Messenger, Antonella Tosti, Gail Todd, Maria Hordinsky, Roderick J. Hay, Xuemin Wang Claus, Zachariae, Kathy M. Kerr, James P. Henry, Rene C. Rust and Michael K. Robinson, 2013
25. Seborrheic dermatitis treatment with natural honey HA Mohammed, Badryia Al-Lenjawi, Diovani Mendoza Wounds 2018; 5(2).
26. Fred F Soeprono, Roger A Schinella, Clay J Cockerell, Stephen L Comite, Seborrheic-like dermatitis of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome: a clinicopathologic study, Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology 1986; 14(2):242-248.