SUMMARY

Seborrhoeic dermatitis is a common skin disease . It can be diagnosed by its characteristic red to yellow-brown lesions covered with greasy scales distributed in areas with a high number of sebaceous glands , such as the scalp , face and upper trunk . There is an association between seborrhoeic dermatitis and the lipophilic yeast pityrosporum ovale but its exact aetiological role is not known . The yeast is a member of the normal cutaneous flora but also an oppurtunistic pathogen . It was found also that patients with seborrhoeic dermatitis have a deficient cell-mediated immunity to pityrosporum ovale.(Wilker et al. , 1988) .

The aim of this study was to isolate and identify pityrosporum ovale as a causative agent of seborrhoeic dermatitis , and to evaluate the role played by cell-mediated immune response in the pathogenesis of seborrhoeic dermatitis .

Fifty patients diagnosed clinically as seborrhoeic dermatitis selected from Dermatology and venereology outpatient clinic of Benha University Hospitals . They were of different age and sex. The specimens were collected from the site of lesion for direct microscopic examination using 20% potassium hydroxide preparation , then were cultured on the specific medium for the growth of pityrosporum ovale (glucose neopepton yeast extract

ager medium containing olive oil , Tween and glycerol monostearate) and incubated at 37C° and observed daily for up to 10 days The growth were identified by macroscopic and microscopic examination .

The results of this study revealed that the heighest incidence of the disease in the studied group was seen in patients between (20-30) years old (36%), while the lowest incidence was seen in patients between (40-50) years old (8%) and also in patients over 50 years old (8%) . The disease was more common among females (72%) than males (28%) .

A positive family history of seborrhoeic dermatitis was given by (44%) of patients and seasonal influence on the symptoms was reported by (62%) of patients where the disease became worse in winter .

Direct microscopic examination of the specimens revealed positive results in (72%) of cases . Positive culture on a glucose neopepton yeast extract agar medium containing olive oil 2% , Tween 0.2% and glycerol monostearate 2.5 g L^{-1} obtained in (54%) of cases .

Blood lymphocytes were obtained from each case for immunological study which was performed by E.Rosette test and by lymphocyte transformation test to evaluate the T-cell function

in patients with seborrhoeic dermatitis and twenty normal persons as a control .

The present study revealed that T-cell function in patients with seborrhoeic dermatitis was not affected by the duration of the disease , its recurrance or by receiving previous antifungal drugs(no significant difference) .

Concerning the percentage of T-cell as demonstrated by E.Rosette % test and lymphocyte blast transformation test , were shown a significant difference between normal controls and patients .