INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Introduction :

Seborrhoeic dermatitis is a common skin disease mainly affecting the scalp and face . The etiology of seborrhoeic dermatitis is unknown , but a connection with the lipophilic yeast pityrosporum ovale has been found in a number of treatment studies (Bergbrant and Faergemann,1988).

Pityrosporum ovale belongs to the normal cutaneous flora but is also an opportunistic pathogen . It can be cultured from almost all adults (Faergemann and Bernander ,1979) . The yeast can be isolated from infants (Broberg and Faergemann , 1989) and school children . The density of pityrosporum ovale increases in prepuberty and puberty (Noble and Midgley , 1978) . The greatest number of pityrosporum ovale are found on the upper trunk , face and scalp (Leeming etal .,1989) . Detection of pityrosporum ovale can be done by direct visualisation or cultures (Faergemann , 1984).

Seborrhoeic dermatitis is due to different causes other than pityrosporum ovale as inborn seborrhoeic diathesis (seborrhoeic state) which is a familial trait . The disease is made worse by conditions that increase perspiration . Emotional stress has been found to influence its course unfavourably . (Anthony et al . , 1971) .

A cell mediated immune response to pityrosporum ovale has been demonstrated in lymphocyte transformation tests . Patients with seborrhoeic dermatitis have a diminished lymphocyte transformation response compared to healthy indviduals , which might be due to decreased number of antigen responsive cells in peripheral blood (Sohnle and Collins - Lech , 1982) .

T-cell aberrations were found in patients with seborrhoeic dermatitis (Bergbrant and Faergemann , 1991) .

AIM OF THE WORK :

The aim of the present study is to isolate and identify pityrosporum ovale as a causative organism of seborrhoeic dermatitis and to evaluate the T - cell function in patients with this disease .