

Etiologic Diagnosis of Infective Ulcerative Keratitis

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A prospective study of 52 patients of rural and urban population registered from 1st Jan 97 to 31st Dec 98 at the department of Ophthalmology unit III, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro/Hyderabad was conducted to determine the predisposing factors and predominant pathogens of ulcerative keratitis. Infective ulcerative keratitis was predominantly caused by corneal trauma and staphylococcus aureus was most frequent bacterial isolate. Of total 1296 hospital admissions 52 cases of infective ulcerative keratitis were found. Corneal ulceration was encountered in all age groups, more common in males (57%) than females (25%). As predisposing factor corneal trauma was found in 33 (63.5%) cases out of 52 patients and 31 (59.6%) showed positive culture. The failure of culture (21 cases) was due to the previous use of topical antibiotics treatment. Among 31 positive cultures, 27 were bacterial, 3 fungal and one mixed growth. The most frequent bacterial isolate was staphylococcus aureus. Whereas in fungal growth, the most frequent fungal isolate was aspergillus species. Ocular trauma was the most frequent predisposing factor and staphylococcus aureus (13 out of 27) and aspergillus (2 out of 3) were the predominate causative agents.