

## House Wife Dermatoses among Females Working in Baghdad Teaching Hospital

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### Abstract:

**Background:** House wife dermatoses are a common disabling problem among Iraqi females.

**Objective:** The aim of the study is to shed light on the house wife dermatoses and their frequency in Iraqi patients.

**Patients & Methods:** One hundred eighty five females working in Baghdad Teaching Hospital, their ages ranged from 17-54 years, were enrolled in this work. A full history and clinical assessment were performed for each women with problems related to house wife dermatoses.

**Results:** One hundred eighty five females enrolled in this study. Their ages ranged from 17-54 years with a mean age  $\pm$  SD of  $28.63 \pm 10.47$  years. The result showed that one hundred ten (59.5%) were married, seventy five (40.5%) were unmarried and house wife dermatoses were positive in eighty six (46.5%) females. The frequency of house wife dermatoses was as follow: Paronychia (40.69%), dermatitis (32.4%), onycholysis (19.76%) and candidal interdigitalae (6.97%).

**Conclusions:** We conclude from this study that the house wife dermatoses were a major problem among Iraqi females as it constitutes 46.5% of the worker and the commonest among them was paronychia and dermatitis.

**Keywords:** Housewives, Dermatitis.

### Introduction:

Occupational housewife dermatoses were a major medical health problem and disabling disease among Iraqi house wives<sup>[1]</sup>. The etiology and the pathogenesis of these diseases were not fully studied. There was no previous study recorded the incidence of these diseases, so the aim of the present work is to evaluate their frequency among workers in Baghdad Teaching Hospital in Baghdad city.

House wife dermatoses usually result from heavy daily housewife work<sup>[2]</sup>. House wife dermatoses affect the right hand in right-handed people while they affect the left hand in the left-handed individuals<sup>[3]</sup>. House wife dermatoses referred to a group of problems including:

1-Hand dermatitis: This is a pattern of inflammatory response of the skin characterized by itching, redness and scaling and clustered papulovesicles (1).

2-Onycholysis: is a painless spontaneous separation of the nail from its bed, beginning at the free margin progressing proximally without apparent cause (5). New Iraqi study showed that microorganism like *Candida*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were secondary invaders and not a primary cause of onycholysis but the etiology mainly including the mechanical trauma, chemical and physical irritants (1).

3-Paronychia: is a common problem among house wives, it is an inflammatory reaction involving the folds of the skin surrounding the finger nail. It is characterized by acute or chronic purulent tender and painful swellings of the tissues around nail (6).

4-Candidal Interdigitalae: This form of candidiasis is seen as an oval shaped area of macerated white skin on the web between and extending in to the sides of the fingers. This disease is common in house wives due work involving frequent wetting of their hands (7).

### Patients & Methods:

One hundred eighty five females working in Baghdad Teaching Hospital were included in this study in period from January—April 2003. This sample included the nurses and the officer workers. A detailed history was taken from each female with emphasis on the following relevant points: age, marital status, size of the family, using washing machine, type of work in the hospital, using gloves and other possible factors in relation to the problem. All of these were fully assessed and examined regarding house wife dermatoses. Microbiological tests were carried out when needed as a confirmatory tool for diagnosis.

### Results

Of one hundred eighty five females working in Baghdad Teaching Hospital, one hundred ten (59.5%) females were married and seventy five (40.5%) females were unmarried.

Their ages ranged between 17-54 years with mean age  $\pm$ SD of  $28.63 \pm 10.47$  year. House wife dermatoses were positive in eighty-six (46.5%) females, of those 61 (70.9%) females were married and 25 (29.1%) were unmarried. Of the 61 (70.9%) married females 40 (65.57%) females had more than 4 children while 21 (34.43%) females had less than 4 children. In those housewives 180 (97.3%) were right handed and 5 (2.7%) were left-handed.

The type and frequency of house wife dermatoses were positive in eighty six (46.5%) females (table 1), while the frequency of the disease in 185 females is shown in table (2).

The problem involving mainly the right hand in right-handed females and the left hand in the handed females.

**Table (1) the frequency of each type of dermatoses in 86 female with house wife dermatoses**

Type of housewife dermatoses	Number of females	%
Paronychia	35	40.69
Dermatitis	28	32.4
Onycholysis	17	19.76
Candidal Interdigitalae	6	6.97
<b>Total house wife dermatoses</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table (2) the frequency of house wife dermatoses in 185 female workers**

Types of housewife dermatoses	Number of females	%
Paronychia	35	18.91
Dermatitis	28	15.13
Onycholysis	17	9.18
Candidal interdigitalae	6	3.24

### Discussion

Although housewife dermatoses are a major problem (46.5%) among Iraqi population confirmed by this study but unfortunately there are scanty studies reported in the literature and most studies in Iraq were concerned on the clinical features of each diseases rather than the frequency of the problem among housewife workers. This urged us to conduct the present work. The Iraqi females heavily loaded in house work, but unfortunately not using neither washing machine nor protecting gloves and this explains why the disease is common in Iraq compared to European countries.

In the present work the affected housewife females had additional work in the hospital and this might increase the frequency and severity of the

disease. The previous Iraqi works showing that the dermatoses is the commonest among housewife dermatoses (85.3%), onycholysis (48.6%), paronychia (33.3%), and candidal interdigitalae (5.3%)<sup>[2]</sup>.

While in the present study, the frequency is completely different, these dermatoses were as follow: paronychia 18.91% , dermatitis 15.13%, onycholysis 9.18% and candida interdigitalae 3.24% . This might be due to changing behavior of the disease.

The etiology and pathogenesis of the disease usually related to house work in a form of wetness and irritation and sensitization with little or no role for the microbiological agents<sup>[1]</sup>.

**References**

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