

ABSTRACT

Background: Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic skin disease that often occurs in infancy and children. Skin barrier defect in atopic dermatitis causes the skin of AD's patient susceptible to bacterial, fungal and viral cutaneous infection. Malassezia can induce the immune system, thereby reducing the number of Malassezia colonization on the skin thus improving atopic dermatitis.

Purpose: To compare Malassezia colonization of children with atopic dermatitis and non atopic children in Dermato-venereology outpatient clinic in dr. Soetomo general hospital Surabaya.

Methods: This is an analitic observational study, with 25 atopic dermatitis and 25 non-atopic children(controls) that qualify inclusion and exclusion criteria. Skin specimens were obtained by skin scraping and then planted in the culture medium of ChromAgar Malassezia

Results: Positive culture of Malassezia in atopic dermatitis group was fewer than the control group, while the average number colony of Malassezia sp.in atopic dermatitis was higher than the control group. High temperature and humidity in Indonesia led to Malassezia proliferation and transformation into patogen form.

Conclusions: The average number colony of Malassezia sp. was higher on atopic dermatitis patient than control group in this study. This results differ with previous study can be possible due to the difference of using culture medium and methods of skin specimen collection, as well as the influence of tropical climate that occurred in Indonesia.

Keywords: Malassezia, Atopic Dermatitis, Culture