

**Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy
Sree Balaji Medical College and Hospital, Chennai**

Journal discussion (20/02/2024)

Title of journal: Parthenium Dermatitis In India: Past , Present and Future

Presenter : Dr. Mahadhi.R

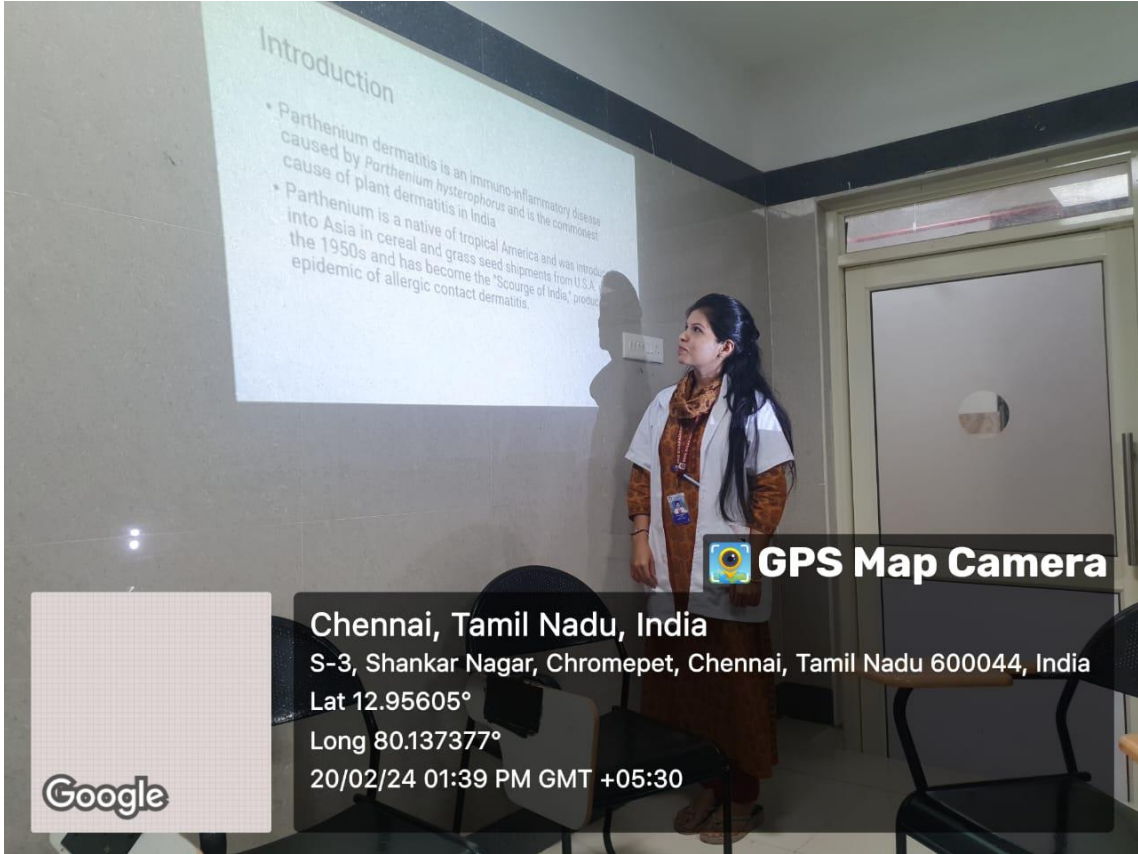
ABSTRACT

Parthenium dermatitis is an immuno-inflammatory disease caused by Parthenium hysterophorus and is the commonest cause of plant dermatitis in India. It is caused by airborne dry and friable plant particles including trichomes, and the most important allergens responsible for allergic contact dermatitis are sesquiterpene lactones. The combined type IV and type I hypersensitivity to parthenium has been recently postulated. In sensitized individuals, it can cause a spectrum of clinical patterns, such as classical airborne pattern, chronic actinic dermatitis-like presentation, mixed pattern dermatitis, exfoliative dermatitis, widespread dermatitis, and other rare patterns. There is definite trend towards change from airborne pattern to chronic actinic pattern in natural history of parthenium dermatitis. Contact sensitivity to parthenium is everlasting, and hence the disease runs a chronic course with exacerbation during summers. Patch testing with acetone or aqueous plant extract is the simplest way of confirming parthenium contact allergy. Management includes avoiding contact with allergen, managing dermatitis with topical corticosteroids/tacrolimus, and other immunosuppressives like azathioprine. In future, we expect parthenium dermatitis to become less prevalent due to rapid urbanization and possible development of new biological methods to eradicate the parthenium. Genetic factors associated with susceptibility to parthenium dermatitis need to be studied.

CONCLUSION


The eradication of parthenium is difficult, and uprooting and burning of plant does not eliminate allergen as it persists in smoke and ashes. There is urgent need to study new biological methods to eradicate the parthenium. Immunosuppressives like azathioprine will continue to play an important role in management of chronic parthenium dermatitis.

JOURNAL CITATION : Sharma VK, Verma P. Parthenium dermatitis in India: Past, present and future. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol 2012;78:560-8



Introduction

- Parthenium dermatitis is an immuno-inflammatory disease caused by *Parthenium hysterophorus* and is the commonest cause of plant dermatitis in India
- Parthenium is a native of tropical America and was introduced into Asia in cereal and grass seed shipments from U.S.A. in the 1950s and has become the 'Scourge of India', producing epidemic of allergic contact dermatitis.

 **GPS Map Camera**

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

S-3, Shankar Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600044, India

Lat 12.95605°

Long 80.137377°

20/02/24 01:39 PM GMT +05:30

