IMMUNOLOGICAL APPROACH TO RING WORM INFECTIONS

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Immunological responses on ring worm infections have not so far been fully explored. Hitherto laboratory investigations of these infections have been confined to direct microscopy and culture of infected material. In this study we have investigated the normal antibody response to these infections. Antibodies to ring worm infections caused by the fungus *Trichophyton rubrum* was studied using complement fixation, immunodiffusion and counter immunoelectrophoresis. The proportion of patients showing antibodies was low. (53%) The production of circulating antibodies was dependent on the site, extent, nature and duration of infection. Infections involving palms, soles, web spaces, and nails were generally not associated with antibodies. Involvement of a smaller suface area of the body also prevented the antibodies in detectable quantities. Inflammatory lessons were invariably associated with antibodies. Precipitating antibodies early in the course of the disease and complement fixing antibodies appeared later on