

# Posibilities of cutaneous defence against dermatophytes

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## Summary

*The dermatophytic skin infections are very important in the medical practice, millions of people being affected by these diseases.*

*The article presents the local cutaneous factors and the systemic factors which appear to be very important in the development of dermatophytic infections. Warm and moist conditions, occlusion, increase hydration of the underlying skin and emission from the skin of carbon dioxide favour dermatophyte growth. Some underlying disease, such as collagen diseases, atopy, diabetes mellitus, hematologic malignancy, SIDA, systemic corticosteroid therapy or Cushing's disease appear to predispose patients to chronic dermatophytosis.*

*We present the immunologic and nonimmunologic mechanisms involved, the factors which favour the elimination or the persistence of the fungal agents from/ on the surface of the skin and the inflammatory response with its different chemotactic mechanisms.*

*In the end, we show the importance of the cell - mediated immune response which is associated with clinical healing, absence of fungal agents from stratum corneum and with simultaneous development of immunologic memory.*

**Key words:** *dermatophytic infections, skin defence*