



Infectious keratitis in western Nepal: An experience from a tertiary care hospital Background:

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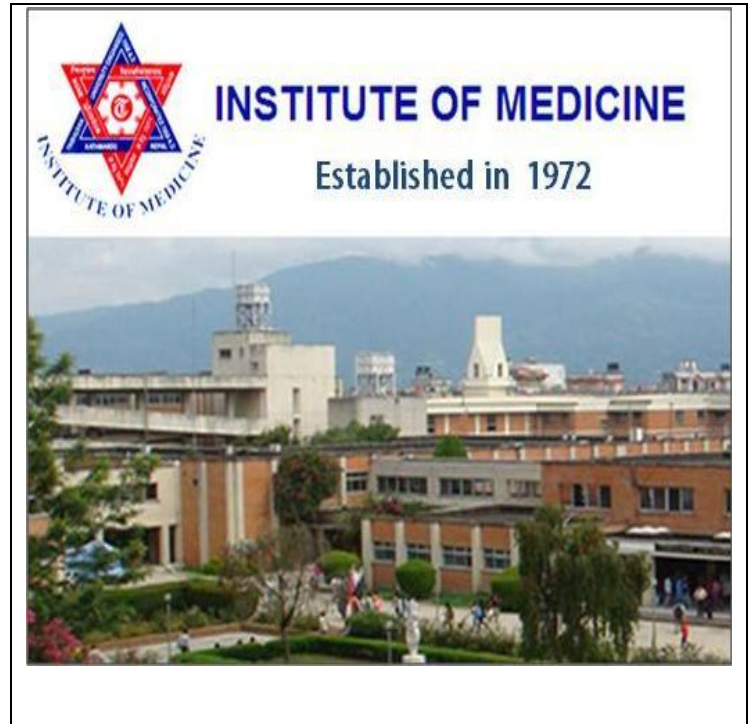
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Background: Corneal blindness is a major public health problem worldwide and infectious keratitis is one of its leading causes. The aim was to analyze the microbial etiology of corneal ulcers and to determine the antibiotic susceptibility pattern of bacterial isolates in order to find out the existing drug resistance pattern.

Results: Among the 84 cases of clinically diagnosed infectious keratitis investigated, 33 (39.3%) were farmers by occupation. All cases were reviewed for predisposing conditions and clinical severity. Ulcers were categorized as mild in 49 cases moderate in 12 and severe in 23 cases. Predisposing conditions were found in 55(65.5%) of the 84 cases. Forty-two cases showed culture positivity. Among these 42; 25 (29.7%) yielded fungal growth, 13(30.1%) yielded bacteria and the rest 4 (4.7%) showed mixed growth. *Aspergillus* spp. (10/29; 34.5%) were the commonest fungi isolated followed by *Fusarium* spp. (6/29; 20%). Similarly, *Staphylococcus aureus*, (8/17; 47%) was the most common among bacteria. Majority i.e 66.7% (26 of 39) of those having trauma, as the predisposing factor developed moderate to severe degree of corneal ulceration as compared to only 20% (9 of 45) of those without any history of trauma. ($p < 0.001$). Interestingly, 20(68.9%) of the 29 cases that had yielded fungal growth on culture

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