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## GRISEOFULVIN VS. TERBINAFINE IN THE TREATMENT OF TINEA CAPITIS

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**Background:** Two oral antifungal agents, griseofulvin and terbinafine, have regulatory approval but it is unknown whether one has superior overall efficacy. Genus-specific differences in efficacy are believed to exist for the two agents. It is not clear at what doses and durations of treatment these differences apply.

**Purpose:** The purposes of this meta-analysis were to determine whether a statistically significant difference in efficacy exists between these agents at a given dose and duration of each in tinea capitis infections overall and to determine whether a genus-specific difference in efficacy exists for these two treatments at a given dose and duration of each. We performed a literature search for clinically and methodologically similar randomized controlled trials comparing 8 weeks of griseofulvin (6.25–12.5 mg/kg/day) to 4 weeks of terbinafine (3.125–6.25 mg/kg/day) in the treatment of tinea capitis. A meta-analysis was performed using the Mantel–Haenszel method and random effects model; results were expressed as odds ratios with 95%.

**Results:** Meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials did not show a significant difference in the overall efficacy of the two drugs at the doses specified, but specific efficacy differences were observed based on the infectious species. For tinea capitis caused by *Microsporum* spp., griseofulvin is superior ( $p=0.04$ ), whereas terbinafine is superior for *Trichophyton* spp. infection ( $p=0.04$ ).

**Conclusion:** Our results support species-specific differences in treatment efficacy between griseofulvin and terbinafine and provide a clinical context in which this knowledge may be applied.

### Biography

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