



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

CLINICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF LEPROSY PATIENTS DIAGNOSED IN A TERTIARY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

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Introduction: Leprosy continues to be endemic in some areas of the Philippines and thru this study, this aims to increase awareness and decrease the social stigma attached to Leprosy. Active case finding missions are done to detect new cases and to follow up patients with ongoing disease. By controlling the transmission of Leprosy, this can reduce the incidence and burden of leprosy as a public threat.

Objective: The objectives were as follows: (1) To study the incidence and type of leprosy cases in East Avenue Medical Center in Metro Manila and (2) To analyze the demographic and clinical profile of the leprosy patients.

Materials and Methods: Retrospective data from the leprosy records maintained by the Dermatology Department from January 2012 to December 2016.

Results: A total number of leprosy cases reported were 86, of which a total number of multibacillary cases were 67 (100%) classified as BL to LL (38%) followed by LL (23%), then BB to BL (16%) and lastly indeterminate (11%). Most patients originate and currently reside in Metro Manila (74%), particularly in District II. Outside Metro Manila, most leprosy patients were found in Region III (n=9), followed by Region I (n=4) and Region IV-A (n=4). Slit skin smear were positive for 54 (63%) leprosy cases out of 86 with low Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase levels. The average age was 35.27 ± 15.35 years old with a range from 9 to 81. A higher proportion of cases were seen among adult male patients 71% compared to female patients 29% having a ratio of 2:1.

Conclusions: Leprosy cases have been increasing in the Philippines affecting more of adult males. Multibacillary cases are being predominantly more than paucibacillary. The main challenge is to eliminate the social stigma through effective information, education, communication and thru contact tracing.

