



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF DEFAULTERS IN LEPROSY PATIENTS - STUDY OF 330 CASES

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Background: Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease that leads to its physical psychological and social disabilities due to mutilation and rejection effects. The objective of this study was to assess the pattern and magnitude of defaulting from leprosy treatment.

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted from January 2006 to December 2017 at Chigateri General Hospital, Davangere to determine the pattern and magnitude of defaulting of leprosy patients from treatment. Records of 330 registered cases in the leprosy center during the nine year period from January 2003 to December 2011 were reviewed.

Results: A total of 330 registered patients were included in the study. There were males (274) and females (56) with the ratio of (4.8:1). The patients were in the age group between 10-70 years. The overall defaulting rate was 12.12%. The defaulting rate was higher among male adult patients in age group of between 20-30 years. Among defaulters, 3 were children (<12 years of age) and majority were multibacillary leprosy patients (82.5%). The major reason for default was change of address (47%) followed by refusal for treatment (25%). Majority of patients were migratory labourers. Among the defaulters 8 patients (20%) had knowledge about the disease. The highest rate of defaulting was identified between 1st and 6th month after the start of treatment. All the required information was acquired by calling the patients over telephone and also from follow ups.

Conclusion: Based on the findings, appropriate health education, regular review of records, systematic registration of patients and tracing of absentees with community involvement are recommended. In addition, further studies should be done to assess the effective duration of treatment and other factors associated with individual patient on defaulting from treatment.

