



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

A STUDY ON GENDER DIFFERENCES IN NEWLY DETECTED LEPROSY CASES IN SICHUAN, CHINA, 2000-2015

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Backgrounds: Many researches on gender differences in leprosy found that women patients were detected with the disease later, had more serious disabilities than men patients. We analyzed the gender differences related to epidemiological characteristics of new cases of leprosy detected from 2000 to 2015 in Sichuan Province, China.

Methods: A retrospective study was undertaken to analyze the gender differences with respect to age, delay in disease detection, the main modes of detection, and disability grade. The Chi-square test and T-test were applied for the comparison using Epi Info 7.2 with a significance level of $\alpha=0.05$. The data was collected from the Leprosy Management Information System in China.

Results: A total of 2900 new leprosy cases were detected from 2000 to 2015, of whom 2075 (71.6%) were men and 825 (28.4%) were women with a gender ratio of 2.5. Men cases were older than women cases when they were detected. The gender ratio of patients aged 15-30 was significantly lower than that of patients aged 31-45 and 46-60. The proportion of Grade 2 Disability among men (20.6%) was significantly higher than among women (17.3%). The average period of delay in detection among men cases was similar with that among women.

Conclusions: Gender-related differences existed among the leprosy cases detected from 2000-2015. Women patients were younger than men patients. The detection of leprosy in women was not later than in the case of men. The disability situation in men was more serious than in women.

