



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

DETECTION OF NEW LEPROSY CASES USING “MODIFIED FAMILY MOTIVATION CARD” IN A TERTIARY HEALTH CARE CENTER IN SOUTH INDIA.

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Background: In December 2005, leprosy was declared eliminated from India. However India tops the countries contributing to current global load of leprosy indicating continuing transmission. Contact tracing is an important tool for early diagnosis and control of leprosy transmission. “Family motivation card (FMC)” is an effective tool to detect new leprosy cases among the family members of diagnosed patients. A modified FMC was developed for familial contact tracing of leprosy patients.

Objective: To detect new cases among the family members of known leprosy patients using modified FMC.

Materials and Methods: Leprosy patients (new and old) attending the department of dermatology of a tertiary hospital were enrolled. The modified FMC was developed by translating it to Kannada language and adding pictorial illustration of symptoms of leprosy. Modified FMC was given to all leprosy patients (Index case) following an audio-visual counseling session. Information about modes of transmission, major symptoms, advantages of early detection and consequences of late detection of leprosy were addressed. The index cases were motivated to bring their family members with symptoms of leprosy (New case). The family members brought by the patients were screened for leprosy.

Results: Total 110 leprosy patients (tuberculoid: 45, lepromatous: 46, pure neuritic:13 histoid:6) were counseled and handed over modified FMC during 24 months. Youngest patient was 9 years and the eldest 84 years. Overcrowded residence was reported by 43 index cases and 35 were illiterate. Total 36 family members of index cases were brought for screening. One new case with pure neuritic leprosy was detected.

Conclusion: Modified FMC has been found to be an effective way of contact survey of leprosy patients. It is less expensive and required less man-power. Moreover, leprosy patients were involved in new case detection among family members which maintained the





privacy and the perceived disease-associated stigma was low.

