



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

## EVOLVING DIVERSITY AND COMPLEXITY OF HANSEN'S DISEASE

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**Background:** Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* affecting peripheral nerves, skin and other tissues. Due to its varied presentation, the diagnosis at times becomes difficult. Here we present 3 atypical cases of leprosy which did not have classical presentation but were diagnosed as leprosy when investigated.

**Observation:** Case 1: A 35 year old female presented with fluid filled lesions all over the body, fever, cough and joint pains. On examination, multiple, tender, tense vesicles to bullae noted over an erythematous base, few showed crusting on thighs, forearms and trunk. On evaluating, Slit skin smear- positive and Biopsy- lymphohistiocytic collections with subepidermal bulla.

Case 2: A 50 year old male presented with rash all over the body, bilateral swellings in axillae and groin, fever, joint pains. On examination, multiple, tender erythematous papules to nodules were noted all over the body with bilateral axillary and inguinal lymphadenopathy. On evaluating, Slit skin smear-positive. Biopsy and FNAC-Lepromatous leprosy in ENL reaction.

Case 3: A 45 year old male, worker in battery factory presented with weakness of extremities, sensory disturbances of upper limbs, decreased sweating and hair loss over extremities. On examination, healed and non healing ulcers over Right wrist, tongue-pallor, blue lines over the gums. Right Ulnar clawing present, peripheral nerves enlarged. On evaluating, elevated lead levels, MRI brain-Features suggestive of Lead encephalopathy, Nerve biopsy- Intraneural granuloma.

**Key message:** In an endemic country like India, in order to achieve target of elimination we need a vigilant eye so as not to miss atypical presentations of Hansen's disease. Our cases highlights the importance of the diverse and complex presentations of Hansen's disease.

