



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

LEPRA REACTION IN A FILIPINO POPULATION IN THE OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A TERTIARY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL: A 5-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Introduction: Hansen's disease is a chronic infectious disease that presents with varying dermatological and neurological symptoms. The leprae reactions occur over the chronic course of the disease and lead to extensive disability and morbidity.

Objective: To analyze and identify the risk factors which contribute to Hansen's disease reactions in patients who consulted in East Avenue Medical Center from January 2011 to December 2016.

Materials and Methods: In a retrospective study, medical records of Hansen's disease patients in reaction registered at the East Avenue Medical Center Department of Dermatology between January 2011 and December 2016 were reviewed. Of 194 identified records within the specified time frame, 78 met the inclusion criteria. Descriptive analysis was used for baseline characteristics and a binary logistic regression model was applied for identifying risk factors correlated with Hansen's disease reactions.

Results: Of the 194 cases analyzed, 127 were male and 67 were female. Majority of cases presented between the 21 to 30 age range. The lepromatous lepromatous form was the most common clinical and histopathologic form. Leprea reactions were documented in 78 cases (40.2%). The average time to reaction was 5.38 ± 1.19 months. Multivariate analysis identified three clinical features of Hansen's disease associated with lepra reactions. These were borderline lepromatous and lepromatous lepromatous clinical forms of hansens disease, and multibacillary treatment regimen.

Conclusions: Leprea reactions are common complications in Hansen's disease patients. Borderline lepromatous and lepromatous lepromatous clinical forms and multibacillary treatment regimen are significantly associated with the reactions. Early detection in cases with risk factors followed by appropriate treatment could prevent the morbidity of patients with Hansen's disease.

