



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

PAEDIATRIC LEPROSY – PEEK A BOO TO LEPROSY TRANSMISSION

Vishal Chugh⁽¹⁾ - Amit Mistry⁽¹⁾ - Dipak Umrigar⁽¹⁾

Government Medical College And New Civil Hospital, Department Of Dermatology, Surat, India⁽¹⁾

INTRODUCTION: Epidemiologically, incidence of leprosy in children is important as it determines the rate of transmission of leprosy in the community. Proper identification of cases and their contacts in children, is an efficient method of detection of leprosy in general population and thus planning_its_effective_control.

AIMS.AND.OBJECTIVES: The aim of the study was to study the incidence, clinic epidemiological features of leprosy in children and to know of any need to emphasize the monitoring_of_childhood_leprosy.

MATERIAL.&METHODS: A retrospective descriptive study of paediatric leprosy was done in the urban leprosy centre of a tertiary care institute for a period of three years. A detailed history and clinical examination of patients with signs and symptoms suggestive of leprosy was done. All patients in the age groups between 0 and 14 years were included in the study. Final clinical diagnosis_on_basis_of_Ridley_Jopling_classification_was_recorded.

OBSERVATIONS: Out of 720 newly diagnosed cases 39 patients (5.41%) were children below 14 yrs of age. There were 22(56.41%) boys and 17(43.59%) girls. Number of patients in age group 10-14 years was 24(61.54%). Maximum number of patients presented with tuberculoid pole 18 (46.15%) followed by borderline tuberculoid 13 (33.33%). History of contact within family was_present_in_6_(15.38%)_patients. Mean duration of illness was 0.78year. The most common primary skin lesion was plaque, with the abdomen being most common site involved. Sensory impairment was seen in 26 cases (66.67%). Two patients presented with lepra_reaction_and_grade_2_deformity_was_seen_in_one_case.

CONCLUSION: This study emphasizes the need to monitor the magnitude and profile of childhood leprosy so as to understand the epidemiology and hence take appropriate steps for better control.

Keywords : childhood leprosy, incidence, family history

