

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

QUALITY OF LIFE OF PATIENTS WITH LEPROSY

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INTRODUCTION - Leprosy, an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, can affect the skin and the peripheral nervous system and, depending on the level of involvement, it can lead to severe deformities. Brazil is one of the countries with the highest rates of endemicity in the world, which determines the importance of this disease in terms of public health. The deformities that appear during the progress of the disease can affect the quality of life. The Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) is specific for dermatology, and is also used in other dermatoses besides leprosy.

OBJECTIVE - To assess quality of life of patients with leprosy treated in the outpatients clinic.

MATERIALS AND METHODS - DLQI questionnaire were applied to 18 outpatients undergoing treatment at the Leprosy Multidisciplinary Group of the Centro de Saúde Dr Genésio Rego, in São Luís, Maranhão.

RESULTS - From the 18 patients who took part in the study, 11 (61,1%) were male and 7 (38,9%) female. In terms of age, 8 (44,5%) have more than 50 years old, 33,3% have between 34 to 49 and 22,2% between 18 and 34 years old. In terms of the occurrence of reactional outbreaks, 12 patients (66,7%) did have episode. The scores obtained DLQI questionnaires are showing only 3 (16,65%) of the patients without compromise of the quality of life, 16,65% with mild compromise, 2 (11,1%) moderate, 44,5% severe and 11,1% very severe.

CONCLUSIONS - On this study, we can conclude that most of patients have any compromise of quality of life. Both two patients very severe compromise was having reactional outbreaks. Therefore we can conclude that leprosy still interferes in the quality of life in the state of Maranhão.