



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

REVERSAL REACTION INDUCED BY STRESS IN MID-BORDERLINE LEPROSY IN CHILDREN – HOW TO PREDICT STRESS IN LEPROSY PATIENT?

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Background : Leprosy is a major public-health problem in many developing countries include Indonesia. Leprosy could caused by exacerbations of the disease as leprosy reaction : reversal reaction and erythema nodosum leprosum. Lesion on face, extensive disease, inter current infection, parasitic infestation, psychological stress, hormonal change are risk factors that can precipitate reaction in person with leprosy. There were few researches that studied association between psychological stress and leprosy reaction.

Observation: A 13 year old boy came with erythematous and edematous plaques in right hand and leg. There was punch out lesion on his back. He also complained mild fever and edema in the last 1 week followed with pain. The redness patches appeared in the same lesion he had before. He got MDT for child about 6 months. There was enlargement and pain in right nervus ulnar, there were no deformities. Slit-skin smear was negative. The patient diagnosed as reversal reaction in mid-borderline (BB) leprosy. We did anamnesis and asked life events he had previous years based The Holmes-Rahe Life Stress Inventory. Major personal illness(53), change in financial state(38), beginning formal schooling(26), change in living condition(25), change in residence(20), and change in number of family get together(15) gave score 177 that predicted about 50% chance of major health breakdown. We concluded this scale could be use as a simple predictor of stress that could be induced reversal reaction in leprosy patients.

Key message : There are some precipitating factors that cause reaction. One of the precipitating factor is psychological stress. It is important to educated leprosy patients about their psychological stress and how to minimize it, so the incident of reversal reaction might be decrease. Further study need to prove The Holmes-Rahe Life Stress Inventory as reliable scale that can predict stress in leprosy patients.

