



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

## A QUALITY OF LIFE STUDY OF THE LEPROSY PATIENTS ATTENDING THE DERMATOLOGY OPD OF A TERTIARY CARE CENTRE OF EASTERN INDIA

Aarti Sarda<sup>(1)</sup> - Abhishek De<sup>(2)</sup>

Amri Hospital, Department Of Dermatology, Kolkata, India<sup>(1)</sup> - Calcutta National Medical College, Department Of Dermatology, Kolkata, India<sup>(2)</sup>

**Introduction:** Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) is a chronic infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae* affecting the skin, peripheral nervous system & other tissues. The disease is associated with social stigma & the patients sometimes suffer social discrimination because it often leads to visible physical deformities. Hence leprosy may have several adverse effects on the quality of life of the patients.

**Objectives:** The aim of the study is to assess the effect of leprosy on the quality of life of the affected patients & to find out whether there is some association of this effect with certain demographic & clinical factors.

**Material and Methods:** The Dermatology Life Quality Index (DLQI) questionnaire was used to assess the quality of life of 114 Leprosy patients who attended the Dermatology out patients department of a tertiary care centre of Eastern India. This was a cross sectional study.

**Results:** Among the total of 114 patients, Leprosy had no effect on the QOL of 15(13.16%) patients. There was a small effect on 23(20.18%) of the patients. There was moderate effect on 37(32.46%) of the patients. The disease had a very large effect on the QOL of 39(34.21%) patients. None of the patients had an extremely large effect. Several of the clinical aspects like nerve involvement, systemic features, deformity, disability grade, type of Leprosy have significant impacts on QOL. Among the demographic factors gender had some effects on QOL.

**Conclusion:** Leprosy adversely affects the quality of life of those affected. Research must continue for finding more developed modalities of early detection & treatment of the disease. The health care & administrative personnel aiming to treat & rehabilitate patients of leprosy must make plans to improve the quality of life of the affected patients.

