



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

BURDEN OF LEPROSY ASSOCIATED DEFORMITIES IN TODAY'S ERA : A STUDY OF 100 AFFECTED PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL IN INDIA

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INTRODUCTION : Leprosy is an infectious disease which may lead to deformities and disability, before, during and after treatment. In spite of breakthrough in modern medicine, introduction of MDT and a multitude of national programmes focussed on elimination of Leprosy, Leprosy is still vastly prevalent in India and so are the disabling deformities. Through this study, we wish to highlight the burden of deformities in our society and stress on the importance of early detection and prompt management.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES: To assess the various deformities in patients of leprosy and study the influence of age, sex, duration of disease, type of disease on the occurrence of deformities.

METHODOLOGY: Hundred patients suffering from leprosy were included in the study during a period of 18 months and their hands, feet, face and eyes were examined for leprosy-related deformities.

RESULTS: Of the 100 patients examined, 52 (52%) had one or more deformities which included 46.34% males and 53.66% females. Deformities were more common in BT type of leprosy (42%) and the commonest deformity seen was superciliary madarosis in 26 patients. The occurrence of deformities showed an increase with increased duration of disease. According to the WHO disability grading, 26% had no disabilities, 26% had Grade 1 and 48% had Grade 2 disabilities.

CONCLUSION: Disability assessment is very important not only to evaluate the control programmes but also for the patients, whose most important worry is the stigmatizing deformities leprosy patients suffer. Hence, early deformity detection is important since the infection can be cured with multi-drug therapy but the deformities persist for life.

