



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

## HISTOID LEPROSY: A 12 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE CLINICAL-EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY AND ITS ASSOCIATION TO LEPRO REACTIONS

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**Introduction:** Histoid leprosy is a very rare clinical variant of the multibacillary leprosy spectrum, characterized by hyperchromic indurated nodules on apparently normal skin. Histopathological findings include a dense bundle of histiocytes arranged in storiform pattern. This variant has been widely reported as uncommonly associated to lepra reaction. Its recognition and proper treatment is essential to prevent disabilities and stop the transmission chain.

**Objective:** To evaluate clinical-epidemiological presentation of the histoid variant cases diagnosed and followed up in a tertiary hospital of an endemic country.

**Materials and Methods:** We performed a retrospective study of 12 patients identified as histoid leprosy based on histopathological and clinical manifestations criteria in a period of 12 years.

**Results:** The study included 12 patients with histoid variant, mostly men (10:2). The average age at diagnosis was 35.9 years. Half of the patients were classified as lepromatous leprosy, while the other half were borderline leprosy. Type II reaction was found in 8 patients, mostly during treatment. The histoid lesions were located most commonly on the limbs. All patients were treated with the standard multidrug therapy for multibacillary leprosy with rifampicin, dapsone and clofazimine, and treatment lasted an average of 24 months. Two of them had to switch dapsone for ofloxacin, due to the onset of anemia.

**Conclusions:** Leprosy is an important and neglected global health issue. Its clinical and histopathological presentation is variable and depends on the host's ability to sustain an immune response. The current study aim to highlight the importance of the recognition of this variant and its possible association to lepra reactions. In contrast to other studies, our casuistry had a high prevalence of lepra reactions.

