



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

LEPROSY AS AN IMPORTED DISEASE

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Leprosy transmission is ongoing despite attempts at elimination. Registered new leprosy cases have remained stable over the last 10 years with 216108 reported cases worldwide in 2016. Possibly the same number of cases go undetected. Delayed diagnosis of leprosy is common in endemic and non-endemic areas and may result in (preventable) permanent disabilities. Leprosy usually presents with skin and / or nerve symptoms, but joints may also be affected. It can masquerade as auto-immune disease such as sarcoidosis and rheumatoid arthritis, which in non-endemic countries have a much higher index of suspicion than leprosy. Diagnostic criteria and tips will be presented along with illustrative cases.

