



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

LEPROSY IN TIGRAY (ETHIOPIA)

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Introduction: Leprosy is still a great health problem in some developing countries. 84% of new cases and 74% of all registered cases of leprosy worldwide are observed in 9 countries. Since 2001, after the introduction of MultiDrug Treatment (MDT), there was a reduction of new cases in Asia, but this trend has not observed in Africa and Latin America. In Ethiopia, where there are 4-5,000 new cases every year, there were no data until 2004.

Objective: The aims of this study was to evaluate the incidence and prevalence of Leprosy observed at the Italian Dermatological Center (IDC) in Mekelle and at Maiani District Hospital (MDH) in Sheraro, Tigray Region (Ethiopia). The twelve year retrospective data (2006 - 2017) of leprosy patients observed were examined. Data were entered and analyzed using SPSS version 20.

Material and Methods: We analyzed the cases of leprosy observed at the Italian Dermatological Center (IDC) in Mekelle and at Maiani District Hospital of Sheraro in the Northern part of Ethiopia, between January 2006 and December 2017.

Results: During the first 12 years of activity, we observed 66,927 and we registered 981 patients with leprosy (3.75%) and 92 with deformity related to leprosy. M: F ratio was 3.1; average age: 41.9 years; pediatric cases: 19 (1.4%). Unlike other African countries, we found a relatively high proportion of multibacillary (MB) cases. (273). We observed 12 cases of coinfection with TB and 9 with HIV, of which one presenting with IRIS as Type 1 leprore reaction.

Conclusions: Leprosy is a topical, still common disease in Northern Ethiopia. It is hard to pinpoint why it is taking so long to eradicate this illness. In most cases, it can be easily suspected and treated. Detecting new cases and monitoring disability caused by leprosy will be a challenge.

