



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

THE IMPACT OF FIXED DURATION MULTIDRUG THERAPY ON THE HOST AND THE AGENT: A PILOT STUDY USING CLINICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL, AND QUALITY OF LIFE ASSESSMENT TOOLS

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Introduction: Although fixed duration treatment has led to massive organizational success, follow up data after completion of WHO MDT are largely missing particularly from this part of the world.

Objective: Hence, we, in a tertiary care center of eastern India, conducted a study among patients who have completed WHO MDT within 6 months to 2 years for clinical, microbiological, and quality of life (QOL) assessment.

Materials and Methods: A total of 77 patients of Hansen disease who have completed WHO MDT treatment from 6 months to 2 years earlier at our center were contacted by means of either telephonic or postal communication. Only 25 patients turned up with the response rate being 32.4%. Only 25 patients turned up with the response rate being 32.4%. Patients were evaluated by thorough history and clinical examination, QOL assessment, slit skin smear and molecular assessment by PCR technique.

Results: Of 25 patients examined; 11 patients showed complete healing, 7 patients had partial healing, and 7 presented with no sign of healing. Type 1 reaction was seen in 8 (32%) patients and Type 2 reaction in 3 (12%) patients. The mean QOL score was 7. Six patients had a score above 11 indicating very large effect on patients' life and 7 patients showed a score between 6 and 10, which indicates moderate effect. Of 25 patients, 6 were slit skin smear positive. PCR by multiplex PCR was done on samples of all the patients; out of which, 23 (92%) were positive showing the presence of bacilli.

Conclusions: Our study points toward a high chance of reaction and relapses in the patients who have completed MDT. It is also noted that even after the completion of treatment and apparent cure of the disease; leprosy affects QOL of these patients.

