



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

ANALYSIS OF CLINICAL ASPECTS OF LEPROSY PATIENTS BETWEEN 2010-2017 AT A REFERENCE CENTER IN CAMPINAS, BRAZIL.

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Introduction: Leprosy is a chronic, infectious-contagious disease caused by the gram-positive bacillus *Mycobacterium leprae*. It mainly affects the skin and the peripheral nerves, being able to compromise also other organs, besides leaving neurological and motor sequelae, it has high incapacity power if not treated early.

Objective: To analyze the relationship of the clinical variables of leprosy in the patients of a dermatology outpatient clinic reference in leprosy, in the city of Campinas, Brazil, in the period 2010-2017.

Materials and Methods: It is a descriptive, retrospective study, where the information contained in the medical records of patients with leprosy was analyzed. Evaluated variables: gender, age of diagnosis, operational classification, clinical form, presence of neural symptoms and/or physical disability in the diagnosis, bacilloscopy before and after treatment, form of treatment, time of treatment performed. The relationship between variables was assessed by chi-square test, Student's t-test or ANOVA followed by Tukey's multiple comparison test. The significance level considered was 5%. The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee.

Results: 111 medical records were evaluated. In general, paucibacillary patients have a lower diagnostic age (p-value = 0.0001) and multibacillary patients (p-value = 0.0001), patients with neural symptoms (p-value = 0.0278) and those with disabilities (p-value = 0.0102) have a higher age of diagnosis. Male patients have more physical disabilities (p-value = 0.0273). Neuronal symptoms (p-value <0.0001) and physical disabilities (p-value = 0.0124) are more frequent in multibacillary patients. Patients with neural symptoms have more positive pre-treatment bacilloscopy (p-value = 0.0139) and are generally the ones who most need to extend the pre-determined treatment time (p-value = 0.0172).

Conclusions: To determine the risk factors and clinical and epidemiological characteristics of leprosy in the local population is essential for early diagnosis, treatment and





rehabilitation, and to avoid the emergence of physical disabilities and sequelae.

