

Observation of clinical and laboratory profile of leprosy cases detected by microscopy in south west Bihar: A hospital based study

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Introduction: Nearly 14 years after leprosy was eliminated from India, many continue to be infected with the *lepra bacilli*. Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease that primarily affects the peripheral nerves, skin, upper respiratory tract, eyes and nasal mucosa. The disease is caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*. The leprosy elimination campaign sponsored by the World Health Organization has successfully reduced the prevalence rate of the disease to less than one case per 10,000 populations worldwide, but the number of new cases in endemic countries has increased so we undertake to this study to know the trend of leprosy in our tertiary care hospital.

Method: This was a cross-sectional study carried out over a period of six months from August 2018 to January 2019 in Narayan Medical College and Hospital Jamuhar Sasaram. Samples were obtained from patients who attended the dermatology department of NMCH Jamuahr Sasaram with history suggestive of leprosy. The slit skin smear was obtained as per standard protocol and then sample were subjected to modified (5%) Ziehl-Neelsen Staining for direct microscopy and result were observed under oil immersion.

Result: A total of 36 slit skin smear were processed of which 21(53%) patents presented with nodular lesions and 15 patents with hypo pigmented patch. Out of 21 (53%) nodular lesions 8 (38%) were showed *lepra bacilli* in microscopy with bacterial index of 6+.

Conclusion: Leprosy is one of the oldest diseases known to man. Despite advances in medical science, leprosy continues to be a public health challenge in countries like India. Our study showed 22% of leprosy cases in our hospital which showed increasing number of cases in this hospital. Continuous surveillance is by far the best strategy to reduce the incidence rate of leprosy in the future.

Biography

Prabhat Kumar has completed his MBBS and MD Microbiology from Darbhanga Medical College in Bihar, India. He has published more than 10 papers and guided more than 28 thesis.

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