



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

## **ANNULAR ERYTHEMA – A STUDY ON NEW AND RELAPSED HANSEN'S DISEASE IN THE POST ERADICATION ERA.**

*Sundaramoorthy Srinivasan<sup>(1)</sup>*

*Chettinad Hospital & Research Institute, Chettinad Hospital And University, Dermatology And Venereology And Leprosy, Kelambakkam, Kanchipuram District, India, India<sup>(1)</sup>*

**Introduction:** The WHO declared on December 31, 2005 that leprosy was “eliminated” as a public health problem by attaining the WHO prevalence of less than 1 in 10,000. However it is a fact that new leprosy cases are still being encountered, including smear positive cases even in the post elimination phase of leprosy. There are no procedures to document relapse due to integration of anti-leprosy services into the general health programmes. Relapsed cases of leprosy may be important sources of infection to their immediate contacts. The primary objective of this study was to estimate the relapse rate and the secondary objective to study the clinical and epidemiological features of the relapsed cases.

**Material and Methods:** This is a 5 year retrospective (2013-2017) study of all new and relapsed cases of leprosy in Tertiary Care hospital. A case of relapse was defined as the appearance of definitive new skin lesions, extension of previous skin lesions, new nerve thickening, previous smear negative becoming positive, an increase of Bacterial index (BI), histopathological evidence like new granulomas in patients who had successfully completed WHO recommended MDT.

**Discussion:**

1. Is it really possible to eliminate Leprosy?
2. How to estimate the dormant AFB?
3. Which drug will be effective in a short time without causing drug induced complications?
4. Why HIV is mostly not coexisting with leprosy
8. Uses of ultra sonography to detect early nerve involvement?

**Conclusions:** This study detected high relapse rate of leprosy in the post-elimination phase of leprosy, commonest type of leprosy to relapse was BT, BT relapsing as BT was the commonest pattern, number of defaulters and irregular treatment cases were not significant in this study.

