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CHEMOPROPHYLAXIS :A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE AND META-ANALYSIS

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Objective : To quantify the efficacy of chemoprophylaxis against leprosy based on a systematic review of the literature and meta-analysis of trials.

Method : A literature search identified 127 published papers relating to the prevention of leprosy and the use of chemotherapy in leprosy was critically appraised. Sixteen trials were selected and grouped into three categories according to the level of randomisation of the trial groups. The Relative Risk (RR) with 95% confidence intervals was calculated from the raw data using a random effects model. To estimate the cost effectiveness of chemoprophylaxis treatment, a further analysis of the rates of disease in the trial and control groups was done. The numbers needed to be treated (NNT) to prevent one new case of leprosy was then estimated (incidence in non-exposed minus incidence in the exposed equals reduced rate, 1 divided by RR equals NNT)

Results : The overall results of the meta-analysis shows that chemoprophylaxis gives 60% protection against leprosy, and when given to close contacts of index cases, this protection increases to as much as 99% in some studies. The numbers needed to treat were found to be low in trials of household contacts and high in community based studies.

Conclusion : The evidence shows that chemoprophylaxis against leprosy is a feasible and cost-effective way to reduce the future incidence of leprosy through a targeted approach. The role of chemoprophylaxis needs to be re-examined using newer drugs.

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RELAPSE CASES AMONG THOSE RFT

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Objective: To find out details of relapses among those RFT

Design: Retrospective study patients returned with relapse during surveillance out of RFT.

Setting: The Leprosy Mission Hospital, a large referral centre at Naini, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Participants: Records of relapse cases out of surveillance

Main Outcome Measures:

Percentage of relapse out of RFT patients.

Conclusion: The trends of relapse of ratio over the past 9 years among RFT patients here were evaluated. There was a variation in the percentage of relapse among RFT patients.

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OCULAR COMPLICATIONS IN LEPROSY : AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF 219 PATIENTS

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One hundred and thirty cases of the 219 patients surveyed were found to have ocular complications, an overall prevalence rate of 59.36%. The peak prevalence was seen in hospitalized patients (68.87%, 104/151), next in cures after discharge (55.8%, 24/43) and the lowest in newly detected cases (8%, 2/25). Visual disability rate in the study group is 21.6% including 12.33% blind sufferers. The main causes leading to visual impairments are lids involvement (lagophthalmos, ectropion) accounted for 24.66%, iris impairments 11.4%, corneal diseases 8.6%, and panophthalmitis 5.94%.. Adapting measures, such as surgical correction, self-care, functional exercise and topical medication, visual acuity of 85 cases (65%) could be improved or kept unchanged.

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ULTRASTRUCTURAL NEURAL-PATHOLOGY IN LEPROMATOUS LEPROSY

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Involvement of the peripheral nerves is a basic pathological phenomenon observed in leprosy whose manifestation are seen right from the early stage with hypo-anaesthetic and hypo-pigmented patches to the advanced forms of the disease with multiple deformities. In the present investigation we have studied the Schwann cell and endothelial cells of endo-neural blood vessels.