

Prevalence of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in Human Population of District Kurram, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract : Leishmaniasis is a collection of zoonotic infections that affect the viscera, skin, and mucous membrane and are spread by several species of female sandflies in the subfamily phlebotominae. The study's goal was to assess the prevalence of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in District Kurram using descriptive and cross-sectional methods. From December 2022 to May 2023, the study was carried out at Tehsil Head Quarter (THQ) Hospital, Sadda, District Kurram in the Dermatology Department. The disease was identified using a laboratory method based on clinical manifestations of leishmaniasis. A clean slide's surface was applied to the scraped-off portion of the lesions and rubbed over the blood to make a smear on the slide. The slides were methanol-fixed, stained with traditional Giemsa, and meticulously examined at high magnification to search for LD bodies. The necessary information, such as residence area, lesion kind and location, age, sex, and the total number of lesions, was meticulously acquired. During the time of the investigation, 393 instances of cutaneous leishmaniasis were observed. 1 year to 70 years old was the age range (mean age: 35.45). The age group that was most severely impacted, 16 years and older, had 23 (11.67%) children with this condition. Male to female ratio was 9.7:10. Most of the cases (n=52, 26.29%), were reported in the month of May. Majority of the patients 102 (51.77%) had lesion on face. 42 (16.73) patients had multiple lesions on their body. Face was the most common site followed by lower limbs 93 (37.05). Weekly intralesional injections of sodium stibogluconate (glucantime) were administered to all patients. Without any noticeable adverse effects, all patients had positive responses to the treatment. The condition affects adults more commonly than children, according to analysis of the combined results, and it is more common in women than in men.

Keywords : District Kurram, cutaneous leishmaniasis, zoonosis, glucantime

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