

## **Epidemiological and Clinical Study of Childhood Hansens in a Tertiary Care Hospital**

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**Abstract :** Introduction: Leprosy (Hansens) is one of the major health problems in the developing countries. Sixty percent of the world leprosy cases are in India. According to the 2006 census India has about 54% of the total new cases detected globally. The National Leprosy Elimination Programme in 2012 has reported 9.7% of childhood leprosy. There are only few studies related to paediatric leprosy. Aim: To study the epidemiology and various clinical presentations of leprosy in the paediatric age group. Material and Methods: A 4-year prospective study was done in the out-patient department of dermatology in a tertiary care hospital. All the patients were screened for leprosy and children with a confirmed diagnosis of leprosy were taken up for the study. Results: Total of 321 cases of Hansens were recorded during this period out of which 41 were children. The male to female ratio was 2.72:1. A positive family history was found in 18%. Most of them presented with single hypopigmented hypoanesthetic patch. Conclusions: Children presented with more of Borderline tuberculoid type and reactions or deformities were less common.

**Keywords :** Hansens, hypoaneasthetic patch, leprosy, reactions

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