The EFFECTIVENESS of PREVENTION OF IMPAIRMENT & DISABILITY in LEPROSY through TERTIARY LEPROSY REFERRAL HOSPITALS in INDIA

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BACKGROUND

Consequences of neglecting POID activities

(early detection & timely intervention)

- Loss of productivity
- Deformities and ulcers
- Stigma & discrimination
- Enormous physical and mental suffering
BACKGROUND

TLMTI 2012 (14 hospitals & 6 Vocational Training Centres in 8 states)

- 5391 new cases
- 456 children (8.45%)
- 914 Grade I disability (17%) 1295 Grade II (24%)
- 2209 Grade I+II (41%)
- 3195 reaction & neuritis (outpatients)
- 4399 admissions- 995 reaction & neuritis; 3404 ulcer
- 145 young people affected by leprosy -VTCs
AIM

• To assess the effectiveness of Hospital based POID interventions

• To recommend how POID activities can be improved both at the institution and the community level
METHODS-1

POID Audit  April- June 2012  (Design & Field test)

9 AUDIT Teams  (Physiotherapist, Occupational therapist, Doctor)

POID aspects

• Reactions & Neuritis
• Ocular complications of Leprosy
• Insensitive extremities (hands and feet)
METHODS-2

6 Hospitals in 6 states

Data Collection

• Patient records audit- Random sampling (Mar 2011- 12)
• 5 year Hospital statistics
• Key Informants- Purposive sampling

Patients –reactions/neuritis, ulcers, insensitive extremities
Health care staff in POID

Tools

• Observations
• SSIs & FGDs
FINDINGS -1

Reaction & Neuritis

• **Decreasing** 5 year trends (6 hospitals)

• **34% - 54%** presented early enough (NFI <6 mths) for steroid & physiotherapy interventions (5 hospitals)

• **Increasing** trend of established deformity (1 hospital)
FINDINGS -2

Reaction & Neuritis

- 92% -100% Steroid Initiating Rates
- 25% -71% Steroid Completion Rates
- Very good outcomes for those who completed
- Modalities - splints, electrical stimulation, exercises, counseling, HE
FINDINGS -3

Steroid defaulters

• 29% - 75% steroid defaulters
• Reasons
  • Distance
  • Financial
  • Social/family commitments
  • Felt well after few days steroid therapy
  • Women – dependency
  • Poor understanding of disease

• No reliable mechanism/system - identify/retrieve defaulters
FINDINGS - 4

Ocular complications

- Decreasing 5 year trends & very low numbers (6 hospitals)
- Large numbers of patients not screened for ocular complications
- Decreasing trends of recent onset lagophthalmos (5 hospitals)
- Increasing trend of established lagophthalmos (1 hospital)
FINDINGS- 5

Insensitive extremities

• New leprosy with insensitive feet- decreasing 5 yr trend (6 hospitals)

• 35%-70% never had plantar ulcers

• 1st plantar ulcers

• No data reported on insensate hands

• Ulcer admissions- decreasing 5 yr trend  (59%-93% complicated ulcers)
FINDINGS- 5

Insensitive extremities

- 1314 ulcer surgeries (debridement) in 2011; 88% within 48 hrs

- Tissue reconstruction for plantar ulcers

- Management of ulcers with POP immobilization – decreasing trend
CONCLUSIONS

- Urgent need for good networking and a **functioning Referral System** for Leprosy

- Multidisciplinary team for POID activities

- Opportunities for operational research in POID – innovations, advocacy & influencing General Health Care policy

- Building, retaining and transferring expertise for POID in leprosy – relevance & sustainability of Tertiary Leprosy Referral Hospitals
RECOMMENDATIONS

For Tertiary Leprosy Hospitals

• **Strategy** - strengthen the Referral System & build networks (*follow the patient home*)

• **Use POID data** - advocacy, influencing GHC , identify capacity building

• **Operational research in POID** - *evidence based* best practices/ innovations/ new projects

• **Multi disciplinary POID Team & Monitoring**

• **Build, retain and transfer POID expertise**
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