

Delay in presentation and start of treatment in leprosy patients: a case control study of disabled patients in three different settings in Ethiopia

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Presenter:.....

The research question

- **If early diagnosis of patient will significantly prevent nerve damage compared with other interventions at a later stage?**
- **What are the factors that contribute to delay in presentation and start of treatment in leprosy patients?**

METHODS:

Case control study



Cases:
Disability
score 2

Controls:
Disability
score 0

questionnaire

Time frame: 10 years

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

AGE

SEX

RELIGION

EDUCATION

SYMPTOMS

DELAY IN TREATMENT

USE OF TRADITIONAL
MEDICINE

DISTANCE FROM THE CLINIC

KNOW A PATIENT WITH
LEPROSY

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE

EFFECT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION

DELAY "A" DELAY "B" DELAY "C"



First
symptom

First
action

First
clinic visit

Start of
treatment

The results:

- Overall Total delays for cases 26 months and controls 12 months ($p < 0.0001$)
- Total delays for Hararge cases 24 months and controls 11 months ($p < 0.0001$), West Shoha cases 36 months and controls 13.5 months ($p < 0.0001$). While for ALERT it was not statistically significant.
- Overall delays A and B between case and control were statistically significant and also for only Hararge.
- All other differences in delays between cases and control were not statistically significant.

| | CASES | CONTROLS | |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|------------|
| Age | OLDER | YOUNGER | |
| Sex | NO SIGNIFICATIVE DIFERENCE | | |
| Education | ILITERATE | LITERATE | |
| Religion | CHRISTIANS | MUSLIM | |
| Skin lesion as first symptom | 55% | 82% | P<0.000005 |
| Never used traditional medicine | 32% | 55% | P<0.005 |
| Distance from the clinic | LESS IN CASES THAN IN CONTROLS | | |
| Knowledge and attitude | NO DIFERENCES IN BOTH CASES AND CONTROL | | |
| Exposure to health education | JUST 10% OF BOTH CASES AND CONTROL HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HEALTH EDUCATION | | |

Summary

- Disabled patients had a median overall delay of 26 months while non disabled of only 12 months.
- High rate of disability and greater delay in starting Tx were associated with high level of stigma, Christian > Muslims
- There was no association with knowledge of transmission, symptoms and curability of leprosy