

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PITTED KERATOLYSIS

Pitted keratolysis first described by Castellani¹ in 1910 in Ceylon under the term 'Keratoma Plantaris Sulcatum' is commonly missed because of the asymptomatic nature of the lesions. Paucity of published reports suggests that it is a rare disease although Narayani et al² reported 70 cases from Calicut (Kerala).

Recently, we observed 2 male patients aged 13 and 21 years who complained of hyperhidrosis of the palms and soles and showed asymptomatic, mild superficial pitting on the planter aspects of the feet and heels. The duration of the lesions was 5 years.

Biopsy of the lesions revealed shallow pits in the stratum corneum, and in the walls and the

base of these pits filamentous organisms less than 1 micron in diameter appeared in small colonies and beaded strands. Some of them showed vertical and transverse septations with branching and coccoid bodies. Growth on blood agar plates showed *Dermatophyllum congolensis*.

1. Castellani A : Keratoma plantare sulcatum, J Ceylon Br Brit Med Assoc, 1910; 7 : 10.
2. Narayani K, Gopinathan T and Ipe PT : Pitted keratolysis, Ind J Dermatol Venereol Leprol, 1981; 47 : 151-154.

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PATTERN OF LEPROSY IN MANGALORE

An analysis of the types of leprosy cases seen in our hospital during a period of 10 years from 1st January, 1972 to 31st December, 1981 is presented. The city of Mangalore is the district headquarters of Dakshina Kannada, situated in the west coast of Karnataka between latitudes 12.27° and 15.58° and longitudes 74.35° and 75.40° E.

Among 2,460 patients registered, 1,671 patients belonged to the Mangalore city corporation limits. The remaining 789 patients were drawn from other parts of the district, neighbouring districts and a few from the neighbouring state of Kerala. The clinical classification of the cases according to the criteria adopted as per the Indian classification to suit the para-medical workers, is shown in table I.

Out of the 1,671 patients, 1,284 were adults (830 males and 454 females) and 387 children (191 males and 196 females).

Table I. Type of leprosy according to the age and sex.

	Total	Lepromatous	Dimorphous	Non-lepromatous
Adults	1,284	150	206	928
Males	830	87	140	603
Females	454	63	66	325
Children	387	12	71	304
Males	191	7	39	145
Females	196	5	32	159
Total	1,671	162	277	1,232

Of the adults, 150 (11.8%) persons were lepromatous, while among the children, only 12 (3.1%) were lepromatous.

Deformities were seen in 340 (20.7%) adults and 19 (4.9%) children. The total deformity rate was 21.4%.

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