

## ABSTRACT

**Natural resistance against tetanus in patients with lepromatous leprosy:** Kunal Saha, V. K. Sharma, V. N. Sehgal and S. K. Agarwal (Department of Bacteriology, Govind Ballabh Pant Hospital, New Delhi, Department of Microbiology and Dermatology, University College of Medical Sciences, and Safdarjang Hospital, New Delhi, Department of Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi-110002, India). Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Vol. 75 No. 6, 1981, 832-834.

Tetanus antitoxin levels in the sera of unimmunized lepromatous patients, often suffering from many ulcerations on their limbs due to physical and thermal trauma, but not developing clinical tetanus, were studied. Sera from 40 such patients with no history of immunization against tetanus, 35 unimmunized matched controls and 12 immunized controls were tested for the presence of tetanus antitoxin by the passive haemagglutination technique. 45% of patients, 17% of controls and all the immunized patients showed adequate serum antibody levels. Eight of the 22 leprosy patients, with no detectable antitoxin in their sera, were immunized with a single dose of tetanus toxoid and all showed sero-conversion four weeks later. 2-Mercaptoethanol (2ME) treatment of these sera showed both IgM and IgG classes of specific antibody in all groups but the level of mature antibody of IgG class was higher in the immunized group. Neutralization test further confirmed the presence of protective antibodies in these sera.

**Study of Dermatoglyphics in Tuberculoid Leprosy:** Lt. Colonel T. R. Kapur and R. D. Verma, Military Hospital, Bareilly (U.P.). Leprosy in India, 1982, 54: 143-148.

Dermatoglyphics patterns and total ridge count have been studied in 25 cases of tuberculoid leprosy and were compared with those of 25 controls in Indian army personnel. There were no statistically significant variations in loops, whorls and total average ridge count. There were 4 (1.6%) arches in tuberculoid leprosy as compared to 11 (4.4%) in controls. This was not statistically significant. There was more decrease of arches on the left hand of the patients as compared to those in the left hand of the controls. Dermatoglyphics pattern in tuberculoid leprosy has been reported for the first time in the Indian as well as in the International literature.