

## STUDY ON DONOVANOSIS

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McLeod (1882) was the first to describe Granuloma Inguinale as chronic, serpigenous ulceration. The aetiology of the disease was pin pointed by Donovan<sup>1</sup> (1905) who discovered the causative organism as intra-cellular bodies the "Donovan Bodies" in the tissue smear. This discovery has also simplified the nomenclature of the disease as Donovanosis.

Rajam and Rangiah<sup>2</sup> (1954) focussed interest on the disease by publishing an exhaustive monograph on the clinical as well as epidemiological aspect. A number of other publications from the country on the subject have highlighted the various aspects of the problems e.g. Serma<sup>3</sup> (1957), Rama Ayyangar<sup>4</sup> (1961), Rama Rao and Patnaik<sup>5</sup> (1966), Lal, Padma and Velou<sup>6</sup> (1967), Ramchander, Jayalaxmi and Pankaja<sup>7</sup> (1967), Lal and Nicholas<sup>8</sup> (1970).

In this paper, we are presenting a clinico-epidemiologic study on 80 cases of Donovanosis seen at JIPMER during the year 1970. These cases were diagnosed clinically and proved by demonstration of "Donovan Bodies" in the tissue smear.

**Incidence**

Out of a total of 1051 cases of venereal diseases seen, diagnosed and treated

during the year 1970, 80 cases of Donovanosis were seen. The prevalence rate works out to be 7.6 per cent.

**Age-sex distribution**

Age-Sex distribution of these cases is outlined in Table I.

TABLE I

Age-Sex distribution of Donovanosis, 1970.

Age range	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
11-20	1	9	10	12.5
21-40	34	20	54	67.5
41-60	13	3	16	20.0
Total	48	32	80	
Percentage	60%	40%		

The ratio between Males and Females in the above study comes to 3 : 2 whereas the overall proportion of Male to Female in venereal disease outpatients is 2.2 : 1.

**Duration**

Duration of the disease was variable and is outlined in Table II.

TABLE II

Duration of the ulcer of Donovanosis

Duration	No. of cases	Percentage
Upto 6 months	48	60
Upto 1 year	17	21
More than 1 year	4	5

This shows that majority of the cases were found to report within 6 months.

**Sites of involvement**

The sites of involvement in Donovanosis is shown in Table III.

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TABLE III

The sites of involvement of Donovanosis			
Site	Males	Females	Percentage
Genital	38	27	81
Inguinal	2	2	5
Inguino-Genital	7	-	9
Anal	1	3	5

The commonest site of involvement in both the sexes is the genital area.

#### Association with other venereal diseases

Syphilis was found associated in 32.5% of these cases, L.G.V. in 8.7% and Gonorrhoea in 8.7%.

#### Marital Status

The classification of the patients according to their marital status is shown in Table IV.

The group 3 in Table IV denotes divorced, widows and widowers, which means that the patient was originally married but at present is not living with the spouse either due to death, divorce or separation.

TABLE IV

Marital Status of the patients of Donovanosis 1970		
Married (1)	Single (2)	Others (3)
56	14	10

#### Sexual Partners

The sexual partners in 32 of the married group could be examined. The Donovanosis was proved by smear in 40% sexual partners. Suspected ulcer was found in 21.9%. The details about findings in sexual partners are outlined in Table V.

TABLE V

Examination findings in sexual partners			
Donovanosis	Proved	13	40.6%
	Suspected	7	21.9%
Other Venereal Diseases		10	31.3%
No Venereal Disease		2	6.3%

#### Treatment

Out of 80 cases, only 76 cases could be given complete treatment, others defaulted for some reason or the other. All were treated after hospitalization. The following types of treatments were used (a) Streptomycin in 61 cases (b) Reverin in 8 cases and (c) Achromycin in 7 cases. The Streptomycin was the treatment of choice in majority of the cases in dosage of 1 gm. intramuscularly twice a day for 10 days for a total of 20 gm. Only 3 cases could not tolerate Streptomycin because they developed giddiness and in two cases no improvement was discovered after 10 days of treatment which meant that it was resistant. No case reported with relapse of the lesions, but amongst 8 cases treated with Reverin, one came back due to relapse and was treated with Streptomycin.

#### Summary

A clinico-epidemiologic study on 80 cases of Donovanosis seen during the year 1970 is presented from the coastline climate of Pondicherry. A high prevalence rate 7.6% of Donovanosis has been met with. The disease was convincingly demonstrated and proved in 40.6% of the conjugal partners amongst the married patients. The treatment with Streptomycin seems to be the most effective in the above study.

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#### REFERENCES

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TRUE or FALSE ?

Psoriasis is an abnormality of keratinisation process seen in skin and nails but does not materially affect structure of the hairs.

(Answer page No. 233)