Experience in treating subclinical leprosy patients in Indonesia

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Leprosy remains an important health problem in a number of regions and still a public health problem in Indonesia because leprosy generally manifests as neurodegenerative disorder which may lead to permanent disability, morbidity and social stigmata. Early detection of infection, followed by effective treatment, is critical to reduce disease progression. New sensitive and specific tools for early detection of infection will be a critical component of an effective leprosy elimination campaign. Diagnosis is made by recognizing clinical signs and symptoms, but few clinicians are able to confidently identify these. Simple tests to facilitate referral to leprosy experts are not widely available and the correct diagnosis of leprosy is often delayed. Indonesia has many research studies on prevalence of subclinical leprosy in population who live with leprosy patients or contact person and hospital employee in order to determine the rate of transmission and initiate early treatment for those with subclinical disease as well as providing data for future research. The leprosy status of the sample was evaluated using IgM anti-PGL-1 in the serum.

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