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**ENDEMIC FOCI OF LEPROSY IN FERGANA VALLEY RETROSPECTIVE
ANALYSIS OF 1930-2022**

Shokolonova Nodiraxon Muydinjon qizi

Assistant of the Department of Infectious Diseases of ASMI

Summary: In this article, the description of foci of leprosy, the number of household contacts and the number of household contacts, were retrospectively analyzed in the territory of Fergana valley during 1930-2022.

Key words: leprosy, endemic outbreak, migration, household contacts.

Резюме: В данной статье ретроспективно проанализированы описание очагов лепры, количество бытовых контактов и количество бытовых контактов на территории Ферганской долины за 1930-2022 гг.

Ключевые слова: лепра, эндемическая вспышка, миграция, бытовые контакты.

Xulosa: Ushbu maqolada Farg'ona vodiysi hududida 1930-2022 yillar mobaynida aniqlangan moxov kasalligining o'choqlari bayoni, maishiy muloqotdorlarining soni, retrospektiv tahlil qilingan.

Kalit so'zlar: moxov, endemik o'choq, migratsiya, maishiy kontaktlari.

Relevance of the topic. Leprosy (leprosy) or Ganzen's disease is a chronic infectious disease, distinguished from other diseases by its long latent period (from 3-5 to 20-30 years). The disease is caused by *M. Leprae* (mycobacteriosis) and occurs systemically. In most cases, ectoderm products, i.e. skin, mucous membrane and peripheral nervous system are affected. If leprosy is not detected and treated in time, the disease often recurs and leaves the patient in a state of severe disability. Today, despite the implementation of modern treatment measures and the end of the epidemic, leprosy continues to be recorded throughout the world.

According to the data provided by the World Health Organization, in 2020, 127 countries of the world reported official information about leprosy. 34 of these countries belong to Africa, 19 to America, 22 to the Eastern Mediterranean, 29 to Europe, 11 to Southeast Asia, and 13 to the Western part of the Pacific Ocean.

But it should be noted that the incidence of leprosy in the world is actually decreasing year by year. For example, in 2001, the total number of patients was 763,000, by 2008, this figure was 249,000, and in 2013, it was 215,656. 899 and 211,973 continued.

According to statistical data, 95-96% (202,000-203,000) of the newly identified patients correspond to 22 countries of the world. The main ones are representatives of India, Brazil, Angola, Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia and other economically less developed countries.

During the time of the former Union, more than 25 special leprosariums (leprosariums) were operating in its territories. More than 13,000-14,000 patients were treated in them. One out of every five identified patients was from Uzbekistan. About 21-25% of patients treated in leprosariums were patients from Karakalpakstan, located in the north of our Republic. Taking these data into consideration, 2 leprosy hospitals have been operating in our Republic for more than 70 years. At the same time, it should be said that more than 550 patients from other regions of Uzbekistan, including 135 from Khorezm region, 83 from Surkhandarya region, 69 from Tashkent region, and even 91 from Tashkent city, have been registered with Hansen's disease. However, we could not find information about the previous and current state of disease centers, except for the number of patients in the Fergana Valley and the reasons for their appearance. In fact, endemic foci of Ganzen's disease in Fergana, Andijan and Namangan regions were neglected. Even in archival materials and scientific literature, reports about these regions are very scarce. Therefore, we set ourselves the goal of studying the epidemiology of leprosy in the Fergana Valley.

Research methods. From the conducted practical and retrospective researches, we found out that leprosy patients in the valley were first recorded by medical workers from 1925-30 of the last century.

Research results. The results of our research show that the total number of patients found in the valley from 1930 to this day reached 84, of which 45 (53.5%) were men, and 39 (46.4%) were women.

When we analyzed household contacts of leprosy patients in the valley, we witnessed the following; the total number of household contacts is 270, which is equal to 3.2 of the total number of patients.

Discussion. Epidemiologically, the fact that the disease is transmitted in the family or outside the family is of great importance. In most cases, patients cannot find out where the disease was contracted. From our epidemiological work in this regard, it was found that, for example, only 9 patients from Andijan had a source of the disease in their family (father, mother, younger brother or sister had leprosy). Even some of them had 2 leprosy at home. patients are recorded.

By reviewing the clinical analysis of 49 patients identified in Andijan region, we found the following new information, including lepromatosis in 33 patients (67.3%), lepromatosis in 13 patients (26.5%) and finally in 3 patients (6.1%) Tuberculoid type is noted. So, the infectious leprosy rate in Andijan region was higher than that of regions in the border region (Fergana, Namangan).

In Fergana region, the incidence among children under 14 years of age was 14.3%, among 15-20-year-olds 3 (14.3%), and 21-30-year-olds - 2 (9.5%).

Of the 21 patients in Fergana region, 12 (57.2%) had lepromatous leprosy, 7 (33.3%) were undiagnosed, and finally 2 (9.5%) had tuberculoid type. According to these data, the incidence of leprosy in Fergana region is not very high and not dangerous. Lepromatous type of leprosy is usually more than 85-90% in areas with high incidence. But the high rate of morbidity among children in Fergana requires caution in these places.

When we analyzed the age of 14 patients identified in Namangan region, we saw that most of the cases were recorded among older people. In particular, 15-20-year-olds - 2 (14.3%), 21-30-year-olds - 4 (28.6%), 31-40-year-olds - 6 (42.9%), 41-50-year-olds - 1 (7.1%) and finally 51-60 years old - 1 person (7.1%). On the other hand, leprosy cases among children were not detected at all.

Our clinical analyzes answered why the epidemiological situation in the region was calm. That is, half of the leprosy patients (7 -50.0%) had the lepromatous leprosy type, and the other half had the less contagious leprosy (tuberculoid -5 (35.7%) and non-comparable - 2 (14.3%) types of leprosy. Namangan in the territory of the region, there were no original stable foci of leprosy.

In conclusion, we can say that on the basis of archival documents and research materials, we found out that 21 cases of Hansen's disease were registered in Fergana region, 49 cases in Andijan region, and 14 cases in Namangan region during 1930-2022, and their contacts and close relatives we collected information about. Taking into account that the maximum latent period of leprosy is 30 years, we came to the conclusion that there are still endemic foci in the Fergana Valley and we need to constantly control these foci. It was proven by our retrospective analysis. Taking into account the endemic focus of the disease in the valley (there is a patient with lepromatous leprosy), their household contacts should be continuously monitored.

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