

FOCUS ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

GLRA meeting in Ikeja - Lagos

On 20th September 2012

The coordinator of the German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Research Association (GLRA) organized a meeting with stakeholders in the management of Leprosy. At the meeting were dermatologists from the South West as well as the medical representatives for the Damien Foundation and the National TB and Leprosy committee. The meeting brought up the limitation in funding, personnel and depth of understanding in management of leprosy.

Draft of the communique following the GLRA sponsored meeting between National Tuberculosis and Leprosy programs in the South West and dermatologists in the same zone - on 20th September, 2012

PREVENTIVE TREATMENT

- Increase awareness via aggressive and sustained IEC
- Increase the number of persons (non HCW to include school teachers) skilled at diagnosing Hansen's disease (HD)
- To put in place an appropriate referral system

DIAGNOSIS

- Facilities for diagnosing HD should be available at the level of all LG supervisors
- More advanced modalities for diagnosing HD (SSS, skin biopsy and histopathology) should be available at the referral/tertiary centers
- Filaments for clinical assessment of HD patients to be available at all referral and tertiary centers

TREATMENT

- Regular and uninterrupted supply of drugs
- In the event of an anticipated stock-out
- Special provisions of drugs at tertiary centers for management of complicated cases

1. Dr. Chukwu, GLRA coordinator
2. Professors Kunle George and Niyi Onayemi
3. Group photograph of participants at the GLRA meeting



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Quarterly reports between the referral centers and NTBLCP
- State co-coordinator to visit all sites (LG, Private and tertiary hospitals)

PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

- All state and national TB and Leprosy programs should include a dermatologist
- Establish tertiary hospitals as referral centers (using Lagos states as an example)
- Dermatology nurses around the country should be identified and trained
- Equip personnel with equipment for assessing

clinical stages for diagnosis

- Constant collaboration between referral centers and NTBLCP Programs
- Every state should observe **WORLD LEPROSY DAY** (27th January) at all levels (communities, general public, health workers) and it should organize CME programs for those concerned on/ or around that day/week
- Improve mobility for the supervisors and hazard allowance/incentives
- Research link between academics and the field (NTBLCP, DF, GLRA)
- Regular CME programs for GP's and other related health care workers