

CALL FOR PAPERS

Children and leprosy

In the post-elimination situation, incidence of leprosy amongst young children indicates continuing transmission of infection, and some countries are still reporting detection of large numbers of new child cases. It would be interesting to see good quality data showing the trends over many years of case detection rates for children if it is available for any country or area. There are various possibilities for prophylaxis to be offered either to “contacts” of known cases, or to whole populations, which may help to reduce the occurrence of leprosy amongst children but as yet insufficient evidence on cost effectiveness or feasibility in integrated field situations. For those children already suffering from leprosy there are problems with management of adverse drug reactions (especially dapsone syndrome) and questions about medical treatment of leprosy reaction, for which there is very little published evidence based on studies in children. Children with irreversible disability face many difficulties in education, social life, and activities of daily living, which differ somewhat from the problems encountered by adults: how do they cope and how can they best be helped to fulfil their potential? Again, there is a dearth of published evidence, specifically relating to children, either quantitative or qualitative.

For a special issue of leprosy review on “Children and leprosy”, contributions are invited covering any aspects of leprosy in relation to children: epidemiological, clinical, psychosocial, operational or other studies may be submitted. Full length scientific papers, systematic reviews, commentaries, case histories or “short communications” can be considered.

Please contact C Ruth Butlin (e-mail: drbutlin@yahoo.com) if you have any queries or wish to discuss potential contributions. Please send your papers to IreneA@leprahealth-inaction.org

Deadline for submission September 2013