

JOSE R. REYES MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY

HANSEN'S DISEASE CLUB ACTIVITY REPORT  
JUNE 2021

**NERVE FUNCTION IMPAIRMENTS, REACTIONS AND RELAPSE – June 16, 2021**

• **Objective:**

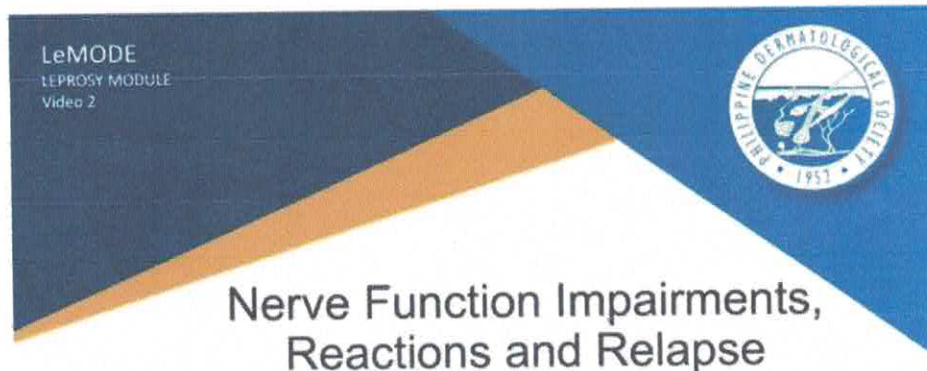
- To discuss nerve function impairments affecting leprosy patients focusing on its clinical manifestations, treatment, and monitoring
- To review on the types of lepra reactions, its predisposing factors, clinical manifestations, treatment and complications
- To discuss relapse affecting leprosy patients, predisposing factors, clinical manifestations and treatment

• **Description of Activity:**

- The fourth part of the lecture series was conducted through an online platform, attended by the dermatology residents and consultants. Dr. Abelaine Venida-Tablizo gave a concise lecture on nerve function impairments affecting leprosy patients focusing on its clinical manifestations, treatment, and monitoring. She also gave a review on the types of lepra reactions, discussed the difference between type 1 and type 2 reaction, predisposing factors, clinical manifestations, treatment and complications. Dr. Tablizo also discussed about relapse affecting leprosy patients, predisposing factors, clinical manifestations and treatment. After the lecture, she conducted a short quiz for the residents regarding the topics lectured.

• **Output:**

- The lecture was an interactive and productive discussion whereby the residents listened attentively and participated actively in the short quiz given after the lecture.



Abelaine A. Venida-Tablizo, MD, FPDS

## NERVE FUNCTION IMPAIRMENTS

- Clinically detectable loss of motor, sensory, or autonomic peripheral nerve function.
- NFI may occur in association with symptoms of neuritis (point pain and tenderness in nerve trunks, or distal pain, hyperaesthesia and tingling in the sensory areas supplied by the nerve) or it may occur insidiously without symptoms (termed 'silent' neuropathy).



Guidelines on the Control of Leprosy in the Northern Territory, Department of Health . May 2018

## LEPRA REACTIONS

- Immunologically mediated episodes of acute or subacute inflammation

### Type 1 (Reversal or Upgrading)

- Delayed hypersensitivity response to *M. leprae* antigens
- Occurs in BB, BL, LL
- Acute neuritis and/or acutely inflamed lesions
- Nerve tenderness with loss of sensory and motor functions
- Redness and swelling in pre-existing skin lesions occurs
- Fever, malaise, edema if reaction is severe
- Onset is common after starting treatment
- Associated change towards tuberculoid spectrum



Guidelines on the Control of Leprosy in the Northern Territory, Department of Health . May 2018

## RELAPSE

- Appearance of new signs of disease in person who has previously completed a course of treatment <sup>1</sup>
- Timing of onset: >2 (PB) or 5 (MB) years after end of treatment <sup>1</sup>
- Appearance of new lesions and reappearance of old lesions <sup>1</sup>
- Neuritis in previously unaffected nerves <sup>1</sup>
- A increase in BI of 2+ over previously documented BI at that site is required that is confirmed by 2 sets of skin smears 6 months apart <sup>1</sup>
- Conversion from – to + 2



1. Guidelines on the Control of Leprosy in the Northern Territory, Department of Health . May 2018  
2. Manual of Procedures. Department of Health, National Leprosy Control Program, 2019

