

### **Epidemiology of Leprosy in Libya :**

Libya is one of the low endemic areas of Leprosy , the total number of cases recorded has reached 1746 cases by the end of the last century , from which 270 cases were non Libyans .

The prevalence of the disease was 2 to 4.9 per 1000 in 1985 it declined to 0.1 per 1000 now . Male to female ratio is 3 to 1 , more than 50 percent of the cases are multibacillary .

# LEPROSY

## LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

BY

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### **Endemic areas in Libya :**

**Western Area :** Mainly in Tripoli , Gharian , Alkhoms .

**Eastern Area :** Mainly in Benghazi , Almarj , Derna .

**Southern area :** Mainly in Sebha .

### **Progress in Leprosy control program :**

There has been a dramatic decline in discovered cases over the last 30 years , this decline is definitely due to the proper application of the MDT , which started in Libya in the mid Eighties , this is given to all the discovered cases either Libyans or foreigners .

Year	Cases	Prevalence
1977	77	5 to 9/1000
1986	30	2 to 4.9/1000
1995	14	0.1 to 0.5/1000
2006	6	<0.1/1000
2007	8	<0.1/1000
2008	7	<0.1/1000

### **Organization :**

In Libya , there is one national committee for Leprosy control program , there is one specialized hospital in Tripoli for Leprosy and dermatology , where most of the patients in western area are coming for follow up , there is a unit of Leprosy in Benghazi Jamahiriya hospital for the eastern region , besides to a unit in Sebha hospital for the southern region .

### **Challenges in Leprosy control program :**

1. Shortage of experienced Doctors , Nurses and Technicians , this hampers the activities of the control work to a great extent .
2. Shortage of educational material for Doctors and paramedical workers as well as cultural material for people .

### **Objectives of Leprosy control program :**

1. Controlling the source of infection , through case finding program this is done among other things by carrying out Leprosy surveys mainly in the endemic areas also by doing surveys to workers in Libya where exclusion of Leprosy is a must before work permission is given .
2. Eliminating the conditions that favor transmission , for example overcrowding .
3. Protecting the health workers through continuous education .

### **Leprosy cases over 12 years :**

Year	cases	Libyans	non- Libyans
1997	11	9	2
1998	10	5	5
1999	9	3	6
2000	1	1	0
2001	6	5	1
2002	7	6	1
2003	4	3	1
2004	4	2	2
2005	6	3	3
2006	6	5	1
2007	8	7	1
2008	7	3	4

### **Prevention and management of disabilities :**

All deformed and chronic Leprosy patients are being sent to Tripoli Central Hospital for Surgical and Orthopedic management , fortunately most of the newly diagnosed cases are free from deformities .

### **Conclusion :**

Libya succeeded in control of Leprosy to a great extent , in spite of some obstacles but we believe Leprosy will be controlled much more in the future.

### **Leprosy cases recorded on 2008:**

**Total number :** 7 patients .  
**Multibacillary :** 4 patients .  
**Paucibacillary :** 3 patients .  
**Females :** No patients .  
**Children :** No patients .  
**Foreigners :** 4 cases .  
**Deformities :** No deformities .