

# LEPROSY

Leprosy is not **VERY CONTAGIOUS** & is **COMPLETELY CURABLE**

Infectious cases become non-infectious soon after starting regular treatment.

## Introduction:

- Bacterial infection caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*
- It often affects the nerves of the hands, feet and face and skin
- Progresses slowly with an average incubation period of 3 years

## Treatment:

- **MDT – Multi Drug Treatment** with Rifampicin ,Clofazimine/ dapsone
- MDT will cure you completely, is free of cost, is available in all health centres
- MDT should be taken as advised (regular, full course)

Government of India have launched National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP) for eradication of leprosy from India

## DO's:

- Regularly examine your body for any patch with loss of sensation, if any patch is noted, immediately consult doctor
- If diagnosed as leprosy, take MDT
- Complete the full course of treatment to cure disease & prevent disabilities



Disabilities (loss of sensation & deformities of hands/feet/ eyes) occur due to late diagnosis & treatment & lack of information on how to protect insensitive parts.

## DONT's:

- neglect hygiene of your skin
- hide the patch on your body
- fear; leprosy is curable with MDT
- be irregular in attending the health centre for taking MDT
- interrupt the daily MDT intake

## Signs & Symptoms:

- Pale or slightly reddish patch on skin
- Definite loss of sensation in the patch
- Signs of damage to nerves
  - definite loss of sensation in hands/feet
  - weakness of muscles of hands/feet/face
  - visible deformity of hands/feet/face

## Important Points:

- People with leprosy are not very contagious.
- The leprosy infection can be treated with special antibiotics.
- People with leprosy can live normally in a family, socialize and be employed.
- No need to segregate people with leprosy.
- MDT cures leprosy, stops transmission & prevents disabilities

References: <http://nlep.nic.in/guide.html>, <http://www.who.int/lep/en/>

Prepared by:

**Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council's Drug Information Centre**  
dic.mspsindia.org