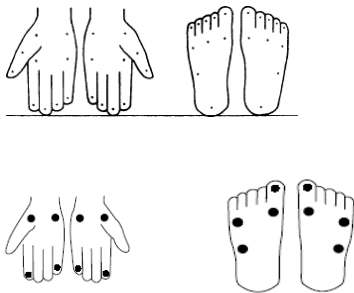


Sensory Testing: Does reducing the number of test sites from 10 points to 4 points result in reactions being missed?

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Sensory Testing: Does reducing the number of test sites from 10 points to 4 points result in reactions being missed?

- To identify the number of cases of severe reaction diagnosed by sensory test results only (as opposed to a combination of other signs and symptoms of reaction / neuritis) in 4 leprosy hospitals in Northwest and north-central Nigeria from 2001 to 2003.
- To identify (from 1 above), number of cases of severe reaction that would have been missed if the 4-point sensory test had been used as against the 10-point sensory test that was used in Nigeria in 2001, 2002 and 2003



Method

- Retrospective study
- Cases diagnosed and treated for reaction in the four hospitals 2001, 2002 and 2003
- Clinical signs – skin, eyes, nerves
- Summarised onto a Standard form

Results

ST only	19 (7%)
ST +	165 (64%)
other	74 (29%)
Total	258

How many missed?

	Total diagnosed	No. missed with 4 points	
Sensory test only	19	5	26.3%
Sensory test plus other signs	165	29	17.6%
Total	184	24	18.5%

Data on five missed cases

Year	Centre	Age	Sex	MDT/RFT	Classification	Recurrence of reaction	Reaction Type
2001	Chanchaga	30	F	RFT	MB	3	2
2001	Amanawa	35	M	RFT	MB	3	1
2002	Chanchaga	32	M	RFT	MB	4+	2
2002	Chanchaga	35	M	RFT	MB	1	1
2003	Chanchaga	22	M	MDT	MB	2	1

Weaknesses

- It is a retrospective study of a different, longer test and it is possible that errors were made in the interpretation of the results for the shorter test.
- It could be argued that greater care is taken when only 4 points are tested, than when 10 points are tested.
- The assessors in each of the centres were not the same person, nor indeed the same level of training or expertise. This could have an effect on the reliability.

Discussion

- Reaction results in nerve damage results in permanent deformity
- Reaction is common (25-30%)
- Ball point is widely used
- Standardised testing guidelines
- Training in ST is important

Conclusion

- Validity and Reliability Testing of 4-points (prospective, multi-centre study)
- Improved training in ST by using standardised methods
- Follow up supervision and monitoring of trainees