CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS

Why are you neglecting me?



A WHO initiative to control Cutaneous Leishmaniasis in selected Old World areas

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Impact

One person becomes infected by cutaneous leishmanaisis every 20 seconds.

The disease is endemic in 82 countries, and 10 million people suffer cutaneous leishmaniasis today.

578

WHO is committed to changing this situation

82 countries endemic for cutaneous leishmaniasis

10 countries harbour >90% of cases

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Impact

- Cutaneous leishmaniasis is an ancient scourge that has become an important disease of development.
- The disease has been neglected as a major public health problem because it is not a killing disease.
- Socioeconomic, political and environmental factors are fuelling a concomitant increase in the number of cases.
- Disfigurement, disability, and social and psychological stigma are all severe consequences of the disease.

S Epidemiology



Cutaneous leishmaniasis is transmitted by the bite of an infected sandfly.

Sandflies are blood-feeding insects that breed in caves or burrows in deteriorated environments.

Sandflies become infected when they bite an animal harbouring Leishmania parasites

The infected mammals, which become reservoir hosts of the disease, are either:

- rodents
 - (*zoonotic cycle: infected rodent sandfly-human*); *or*
- humans

(anthroponotic cycle: infected human-sandflyhuman)



emiology

Around 1 million cases of cutaneous leishmaniasis occur annually, and epidemics are frequent.

The disease is epidemiologically unstable, with large and unpredictable fluctuations in the number of cases. EISHMANIASI

Population movements caused by insecurity and development issues are the main reasons for its spread to new countries. The cost of drugs

may be as high

as US\$ 85 per

patient

Disease



erythema





induration

crust



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