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Single-Dose ROM Treatment for Multilesion Paucibacillary Leprosy—Further Observations

To the Editor:

A single dose treatment with ROM in the single skin lesion-paucibacillary (SSL-PB) leprosy group has been well received by the leprosy control programs. A small proportion of relapses and other clinical problems have been reported ([2, 3]). ROM single dose (ROM-1) treatment in paucibacillary patients with two to five lesions (PB 2–5) is currently under trial and the initial observations including relapses have been reported ([2, 3]). It is necessary to record longterm follow-up of such cases before this regimen can be considered for leprosy control programs.

A treatment period cohort analysis of ROM-1-treated 335 PB (2–5) leprosy patients followed up for a period ranging from 6 months to 70 months is reported. The mean period of follow up was 2.8 years. All the clinical problems other than reactions were recorded. The reactions were noted separately. The clinical problems were mainly in the nature of new lesions, persistence of lesions and an increase in the size of the patches. All these problem cases were given steroids before they were labeled as relapses. The rate of relapse observed in this study is compared with already published relapse rates after PB-MDT. The confidence interval (CI) is calculated for all the values at 95%. Table 1 shows that 10.4% (95% CI 7.03, 13.78) of the patients presented with various clinical problems other than reactions. The relapse rate is 1.4% (95% CI 012, 2.68) or 5.3 relapses (95% CI 0.26, 1.32) per 1000 person years of follow up. The annual rate is 0.5%. Two of them were bacteriologically positive when they relapsed. One of these bacteriologically-positive patients relapsed after 26 months and the other one after 70 months. All these 5 relapses have been retreated.

Table 1. *Relapse rate after ROM-1 in PB (2–5) leprosy.*

Description of events	No.
Patients followed up	335
Person years of follow-up	940
Patients with clinical problems	35 (10.4%)
Patients relapsed	5 (1.4%)
Relapse rate/1000 person years (py)	5.3