

Leprosy

Leprosy

- A chronic, slowly progressive infection of the skin, and **nerve tissues** caused by *M.leprae*. It is an AFB with a long incubation period (3-5 years). It has not **grown in artificial media**. It grows only in the foot pads of normal mice or thymectomized irradiated mice and armadillo.

Three forms of Leprosy:

1. Tuberculoid leprosy
2. Lepromateous leprosy
3. Border - line leprosy

Leprosy (Continued)

- Acquisition of leprosy is slowly and needs prolonged contact with the infected patient. Infection from contact with skin lesion or nasal secretions.

Diagnosis:

- Clinical examination
 - Split skin biopsy of the lesion
 - Nasal scraping
 - Ear lobe
- } Z-N stain to look for AFB

*Not cultured in artificial media

Leprosy (Continued)

Treatment:

- Tuberculoid – Dapsone + Rifampicin for 6 months for Lepromateous type – Dapsone + Rifampicin + Clofazimine for 2 yrs.

Characteristics of the five points on the spectrum of Leprosy

	TT	BT	BB	BL	LL
Bacilli seen in skin	-	+/-	+	++	+++
Bacilli in nasal secretions	-	-	-	+	+++
Granuloma formation	+++	++	+	-	-
Reaction to lepromin	+++	+	+/-	-	-
Antibodies to <i>M.leprae</i>	+/-	+/-	+	++	+++
Main phagocytic cell	Mature epithelioid	Immature epithelioid	Immature epithelioid	Macrophage	Macrophage
In-vitro correlates of CMI	+++	++	+	+/-	-

CMI, cell-mediated immunity; see text for other abbreviations.

Classification *Streptococci*

