

## Letters to Editor

### EYE LESIONS IN LEPROSY—GLAUCOMA AND TENSION

Sir,

In the article by Soshamma and Suryawanshi, Eye lesions in leprosy, *Lepr Rev* 1989; **60**: 33–8, there are the following statements: ‘Glaucoma has been reported to be rare in leprosy,’ and ‘Tension was assessed digitally.’

Firstly, there is the misconception in the literature on ocular leprosy that glaucoma is rare or uncommon in leprosy patients. At the GWL Hansen’s Disease Center, Carville, LA, USA, 39 of the 190 inpatients are being followed as glaucoma or as glaucoma suspects. That is 20.5% of the hospital population, and that percentage is many times greater than the incidence in the general (non-leprosy) population.

Secondly, digital assessment of intraocular pressure through the eyelids is not an accurate method and should be discouraged. For example, I would challenge any examiner to determine with consistency the difference in ocular pressures of 20 and 26 mm Hg: 20 mm Hg is normal; 26 mm Hg is dangerously high.

*Department of Health & Human Services  
Public Health Service  
Gillis W Long Hansen’s Disease Center  
Carville, LA 70721  
USA*

VAN C JOFFRION