

WOUND HEALING AND TREATMENT OF ULCERS IN LEPROSY

Sir,

I am pleased to read of the good results obtained using sugar paste in the treatment of abscess cavities and pressure sores as related in L. A. Wiseman's letter, *Lepr Rev* **60**: 1989; 67-8.

This has encouraged me to share my experience of wound healing in leprosy ulcers using silver-sulphadiazine cream. A study conducted of 30 cases of such non-healing ulcers of predominantly leprosy origin, showed remarkably good results (83%) in a relatively short period—4 weeks. This is attributable to the beneficial antibacterial effect of zinc sulphadiazine which, although much cheaper, has an almost similar action to topical silver sulphadiazine. In addition, the role of zinc per se in the process of wound healing has been recognized since time immemorial.

I feel, that apart from other aspects of wound healing, clinical trials of such innovative measures do have a role in the management of such recalcitrant and chronic leprosy ulcers. Knowledge of such a vital but day-to-day common problem should be pooled in order to have a better striking potential because with the effectiveness of MDT., non-healing ulcers require better attention so as to rehabilitate the patient and enable them to return to work.

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