

# LEPROMIN SENSITISATION OF SRI LANKANS

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The lepromin test is used clinically to differentiate between the polar types of leprosy. However, few studies exist of lepromin sensitisation of general populations, and none from Sri Lanka. We investigated two Sri Lankan populations, at Pussellawa (n=258) and Nuwara Eliya (n=167), using Lepromin A with  $3 \times 10^7$  bacilli per ml.

## SECTION A

Each subject was tested with the low dose Tuberculin test and Lepromin A, both being administered intradermally on the volar aspect of the left forearm. The Tuberculin test was read at 72 hours, and the Lepromin test, Fernandez reaction at 48 hours, and Mitsuda reaction at 72 hours.

All three types of reactions showed bimodal distributions, with separation of reactors and nonreactors. Overall the patterns with each type of reactivity was similar in the two areas, with the exception, of the Fernandez reaction, where there was a significantly lesser number of nonreactors at Nuwara Eliya than at Pussellawa. With all three reactions the B.C.G. vaccinated showed lesser numbers of nonreactors than those not vaccinated. In both groups the modes of reactors were, for the Fernandez reactions, 5-6 mm., and for Mitsuda reactions 7-10 mm.

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