

**A-05 : A TEN YEAR STUDY OF ENLARGED LYMPH NODES
OF THE NECK**

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Five hundred and four cervical lymphnode biopsies received between March 1982 and March 1992 were examined. All biopsies were fixed in 10% formol saline, processed and stained with haematoxyline and eosin. Ziehl-Neelsen stain was performed on all granulomatous lymphadenitis. Sixty lymph nodes showing secondary deposits were excluded from the study. Out of 444 primary lesions, 183

(41.2%) showed tuberculosis (confirmed by Ziehl-Neelsen stain) 94 (21%) non specific chronic lymphadenitis, 76 (17%) reactive hyperplasia, 35 (7.9%) non Hodgkin's lymphoma, 21 (4.7%) Hodgkin's lymphoma, 16 (3.6%) toxoplasmosis, 7 (1.6%) Kihuchi's disease, (4.9%) infections mononucleosis, 4 (0.95%) Cat scratch disease and another 4 (0.9%) sarcoidosis.

The most common lesion was tuberculous lymphadenitis. Out of 183, there were 120 Sinhalese, 58 Muslims and 5 Tamils. The respective mean ages were 35.5, 25.4 and 44.2 years. There was a significant difference between the mean ages of Sinhalese and Muslim patients ($p=0.001$). There was no statistical significance between the mean ages of Sinhalese and Tamil patients. The other common lesions were non specific chronic lymphadenitis and reactive hyperplasia.

In conclusion non neoplastic inflammatory lesions are more common than lymphomas. The findings also indicate that tuberculous lymphadenitis occurs in a younger age group among Muslims, compared to Sinhalese and Tamils.