Hansen’s Disease / Leprosy (*Mycobacterium leprae*)

2013 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement(s)

12-ID-01

Clinical Criteria

A chronic bacterial disease characterized by the involvement primarily of skin as well as peripheral nerves and the mucosa of the upper airway. Clinical forms of Hansen’s disease represent a spectrum reflecting the cellular immune response to *Mycobacterium leprae*. The following characteristics are typical of the major forms of the disease, *though these classifications are assigned after a case has been laboratory confirmed.*

- **Tuberculoid**: one or a few well-demarcated, hypopigmented, and hypoesthetic or anesthetic skin lesions, frequently with active, spreading edges and a clearing center; peripheral nerve swelling or thickening also may occur.

- **Lepromatous**: a number of erythematous papules and nodules or an infiltration of the face, hands, and feet with lesions in a bilateral and symmetrical distribution that progress to thickening of the skin, possibly with reduced sensation.

- **Borderline (dimorphous)**: skin lesions characteristic of both the tuberculoid and lepromatous forms

- **Indeterminate**: early lesions, usually hypopigmented macules, without developed tuberculoid or lepromatous features but with definite identification of acid-fast bacilli in Fite stained sections

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Confirmed:

- Demonstration of acid fast bacilli in skin or dermal nerve from a biopsy of a skin lesion using Fite stain, without growth of mycobacteria on conventional media (if done), OR

- Identification of noncaseating granulomas with peripheral nerve involvement, without growth of mycobacteria on conventional media (if done)

Case Classification

Confirmed

- A clinically compatible illness with confirmatory laboratory results.