



What is leprosy?

We are working together to end leprosy.

Leprosy is caused by a bacteria which can affect the skin and nerves, and sometimes the eyes.

People are affected in different ways, depending on their immune system.

How is leprosy spread?

Leprosy is not spread very easily. It can be spread by close contact over a long time with someone who has the disease.

After being exposed to leprosy, it can take many years for any symptoms to develop (up to 20 years).

What are the symptoms of leprosy?

- Skin changes
 - » Pale or dark patches, lumps, sometimes with change in feeling
- Nerve damage
 - » Numbness, tingling, shooting pain, loss of function in hands, feet or face

How do you test for leprosy?

- Skin check
- Testing how nerves are working by checking feeling and movement

Can leprosy be treated?

Leprosy is curable with tablet antibiotic treatment. The treatment is taken for 1 to 2 years with help from your nurse and doctor.

People with leprosy do not need to isolate from their friends and family.

Early testing and diagnosis is important.

If you have a family history of leprosy, or have any symptoms of leprosy, it is important to be tested early. This helps stop any permanent damage to the body and helps stop the infection spreading.



The information provided is for information purposes only. If you are a patient using this publication, you should seek assistance from a healthcare professional when interpreting these materials and applying them to your individual circumstances.



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