



The Problem of Matende and Mabusha in Pwani Region

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Introduction

Matende and Mabusha [Elephantiasis and Hydrocel] are the diseases occurring due to impairment of the lymphatic system. These diseases are very common in Pwani region as they affect most of people especially Men who live in this region.

Statistical data shows that a total of 472 individuals were screened for which 65.1 percent were males while 34.8 percent were females. 73.2 percent were found to be affected by Mabusha [Hydrocel] while 16 percent were found to be suffering from Matende [Elephantiasis]. This shows that there is high rate of transmission of these diseases in Pwani as compared to other regions.

It is believed that Matende and Mabusha are caused by excessive use of Madafu [Coconut milk] while others believe that the diseases are just a curse and sometimes related to superstitious stuffs as people believe that the one who has Matende and Mabusha have been witched.

MEANING OF MABUSHA[HYDROCEL].

This is the accumulation of water in the scrotum due to bacterial, Fungal or Viral infection. Therefore for a person to have hydrocel must have infections. This disease cannot be transmitted from one person to another since it is a non communicable disease.

Method

In this project different methods for collecting information were employed including questionnaire, interview and literature review.

In questionnaire and interview different questions have been asked to different people including residents of Pwani and specialist for men's disease from TUMBI HOSPITAL in Kibaha Pwani, for which useful information has been recorded as it can be shown in the result sections.

In literature review we tried to pass through some books, websites and various sources relating to this project for which useful information have been also recorded as it can be shown in the result section.

Results

In this project, a sample of 10 people was interviewed of which 5 were females and 5 were males aged 20-49 years and 50 - 79 years. Among them two were Doctors who are specialists for men's diseases from TUMBI HOSPITAL. The following are the findings.

People of Pwani describe the disease of Matende as the problem of swelling of legs resembling to that of an elephant. They also describe Mabusha as the problem swelling of scrotum they believe that the disease of Matende and Mabusha [Elephantiasis and Hydrocel] caused by excessive use of Madafu [coconut milk]

Veronica Baraka Mollel aged 24 years claim that her grandfather aged 65 years had suffered from Mabusha[Hydrocel].She believed that her grandfather got the disease because he was drinking a lot of Madafu[coconut milk]while he was living in Pwani region.

Others believe that Matende and Mabusha are just a curse and sometimes related to superstitions stuffs as people that the one who has Matende or Mabusha have been witched.

NelsonThadeus Kimaro aged 31years claim that his friend got matende and mabusha since he had affairs with someones wife, therefore he believed that his friend was witched.

Some people of Pwani use local medicine in treating Matende and MSHAMU NGONYANI aged 40 years claim that there is a local medicine called MKONGORAA that is used for treating Matende.

Conclusion

In this project we learn that Matende and Mabusha are not caused by Madafu [Coconut milk] as people says. We also learn that the problem of Matende is very common in Pwani due to availability of favorable conditions for Culex to survive and reproduce at high rate, and increase in number thus increases the chances of transmitting the disease. The disease does not affect men only but also there are some women who have been affected by the disease.

On the other hand Mabusha is caused by bacterial, viral or fungal infections. The society should understand that Matenda and Mabusha can be cured and therefore they should not isolate and exclude the patients from social activities. This at least help to make the patient feel free to visit public places and perform their activities as usual if they can, also this may save the patient from psychological problems.

We hope that problem of Matende and Mabusha in Pwani region can be overcome by educating people on how to protect them from the disease and take considerable action to the person showing any symptoms of the disease like taking him or her to the hospital for medical checkup/care.

It is our wish to create awareness to the society concerning the problems they face for present and future generation well being.

References

D. J. Taylor et al, (1997), Biological science 3rd edition, pg. 60 – 61.

Catherine A Mapunda, (2011), The social economic factors affecting the utilization of health care services among patient with Hydrocel [manifestation of lymphatic filariasis], in Pangani District, Tanga Region.

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FIG. 4 A LOCAL MEDICINE FOR MABUSHA CALLED MELLI.

TRANSILLUMINATION TEST.

In this test [Mabusha] can be detected by using light where a source of light is placed in contact with the swollen scrotum; if the scrotum allow light to pass through [transparent] then it is concluded that a person has [hydrocel] due to positive result of the transillumination test.

TRANSILLUMINATION



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