



Media Scanning & Verification Cell



Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
6642	09.04.2022	11.04.2022	Tumakuru Karnataka	www.timesofindia.com/English https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/ka rnataka-16-cases-of-elephantiasis-in-tumakuru- district-this-year/articleshowprint/90738294.cms
Title:	16 cases of elephantiasis in Tumakuru district this year, Karnataka			
Action By CSU, IDSP –NCDC	Information communicated to DSU – Tumakuru, SSU- Karnataka			

Though lymphatic filariasis, a vector-borne disease commonly known as elephantiasis, is not endemic to Tumakuru, 16 cases have been reported in the district since January. The infection is found among migrant workers who come to work in projects such as Yettinahole, Smart City, and railway and construction ventures, doctors said.

Out of the 16 patients, 13 are from Bihar and one each from Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Vijayapura district.

District vector-borne disease control officer TN Purushotham told TOI: "We have treated 13 cases of lymphatic filariasis so far. Three patients have gone back to their hometowns and we have informed medical officers concerned in Bihar and Sindgi of Vijayapura."

He said that in all, 689 migrant labourers were screened for filariasis. Most of the people who come from other states and districts endemic to lymphatic filariasis are

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Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

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carriers of the infection. "They have micro-filaria parasites in their blood. Mosquitoes transmit the infection from one person to another," Dr Purushotham said.

Though they are carriers of the infection, they will be asymptomatic for up to 18 months. Clinical symptoms are found only when the parasites grow into adult worms, which takes 18 months. Symptoms include fever, chills, nausea, dizziness, itching, swelling, and ulcers in different parts of the body such as limbs, breasts and scrotum.

Physical deformities like swollen limbs are irreversible and make it tough for the patients to even walk. According to doctors, owing to fluid accumulation, legs can weigh up to 30-40kg.

Treatment

Blood samples are collected in the evening and sent to the laboratory. A 12-day course of diethylcarbamazine citrate tablets is the treatment given to those testing positive. After 12 days, they will no longer be carriers of the disease, Dr Purushotham said.

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