

Yaws Eradication Programme (YEP)

Yaws is a chronic bacterial infection caused by *Treponema pallidum* subspecies *pertenue* which mainly affects the skin and bones and is a disfiguring, disabling non-venereal infection. Man is the only natural source of infection. Yaws spreads from infected persons through intimate, body to body contact which can be checked through health education, timely, prompt treatment of cases with long acting penicillin and prophylaxis of contacts.

Yaws Eradication Programme (YEP) was launched as a centrally sponsored scheme in 1996-97 in Koraput district of Orissa, which was subsequently expanded to cover all the 10 endemic states (Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam and Gujarat) during 9th Plan period.

Programme strategy includes:

- manpower development,
 - detection of cases by active search,
 - treatment of cases and contacts simultaneously and
 - IEC activities harnessing multi-sectoral approach.
 - Injection of Benzathine penicillin is the drug of choice given in single dose.
- During 1996, more than 3500 cases were reported from the 10 endemic states. The number of reported cases came down to 46 during 2003. After November 2003 no new case of Yaws has been reported.
 - On 19th September 2006, Hon'ble HFM formally declared yaws elimination from the country in a function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
 - A workshop "Roadmap from yaws elimination to yaws eradication" on 19.09.2006, recommended starting:
 - Sero-survey,
 - Rumour register and
 - Introduction of cash incentive scheme for voluntary reporting of yaws case and first informer of confirmed case.
 - The programme carried out different activities like, active search and concurrent sero-survey, routine surveillance (monthly reporting), rumour reporting, cash incentive scheme for voluntary reporting of yaws case and first informer of confirmed case, IEC etc.
 - Sixth independent Appraisal of the programme undertaken during May - June, 2014 recommended that the country should prepare its case for getting eradication certificate from WHO.
 - Recommendations of the sixth independent appraisal were endorsed by the seventh task force under DGHS during July 2014.
 - Country report mentioning details about the Yaws Eradication Programme was submitted to WHO in November 2014.

An International Verification Team (IVT) of WHO consisting of International and National experts visited India during 4-17 October, 2015. The IVT divided itself into 5 teams and visited 5 Yaws endemic states.

The IVT strongly recommended to World Health Organization to consider issuing a Certificate of Eradication of Yaws for India.