Rehabilitation at National Level

Despite all this work, we regret not having a good and regular evaluation of patients during follow-up.

Here in São Paulo, for a few years we have been studying the possibility of implementing a project of physical rehabilitation for leprosy patients. In this project, the primary attention would include prevention of incapacities and detection of possible surgical cases, at a secondary level there would be Health Centers better equipped where physiotherapists and occupational therapists would select the cases coming from primary attention and prepare them for surgery. At a tertiary level we would have the group at the Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima receiving and operating the previously selected patients. The post-surgical care would also be done in the hospital, and the patient would then be referred back to the secondary level for further post-surgical care and confection of prosthesis when necessary. Naturally many of those activities would be done at the Institute, there would also be a fourth levels of socio-professional attention at the SORRI units (Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled) distributed through the State. Arranged that way, the patients from São Paulo would not have to wait in line because out of state patients would not be operated here.

Since there are trained groups in several other states, why not institute a national plan similarly to what has been done in São Paulo?

The multidrug therapy has released patients from treatment after a relatively short time, but, the presence of some disabilities and deformities remain.

The surgical rehabilitation of patients is an imperative need at this moment because besides recovering patients, it raises hope for improvement, giving support to the control programs.

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REFERENCE