

Digital Dermatoglyphics in Leprosy

P.E.Natekar* and F. M. DeSouza

Department of Anatomy, Goa Medical College, Bambolim 403202, Goa, India

**Telephone: (O) 0832-2458701-09 Ext.2250, (R) 0832-2458787 (M) 09326150001*

**E-mail: drpenatekar@hotmail.com*

KEYWORDS Finger Print Pattern. Total Finger Ridge Count. Absolute Finger Ridge Count. Leprosy

ABSTRACT Finger print patterns of 150 leprosy patients (100 paucibacillary and 50 multibacillary leprosy) were compared with 100 controls matched accordingly. The finger print pattern such as whorls, loops, arches, total finger ridge count (TFRC) and absolute finger ridge count (AFRC) were calculated. These dermatoglyphic parameters were compared to that of the controls. It was observed that the finger print pattern showed increase in the whorls and decrease in the loops in paucibacillary leprosy patients and increase in the loops and decrease in whorls in multibacillary leprosy patients ($p < 0.001$) which is highly significant when compared to that of the control. The difference in the mean TFRC and AFRC in paucibacillary and multibacillary was also found to be highly significant ($p < 0.001$) when it was compared to the control.