

LEPROSY

Guidelines for the patient and family

WHAT IS LEPROSY?

Disease caused by Hansen's Bacillus microbe that mainly affects the skin and nerves

SIGNS OF DISEASE

Whitish or reddish patches on the skin.

SYMPTOMS

Decreased sensitivity to heat, pain and touch at the site of the spots.



If you have any of these signs and symptoms, look for the health unit closest to your home.

LEPROSY HAS TREATMENT AND CURE

1

Perform the complete treatment and attend scheduled appointments.

2

Inform the health professional at your treatment unit if any changes occur in your body and, if necessary, return before the scheduled date.

3

Inform the number of contacts who live with you, as soon treatment begins, the lower the risk of having sequelae.

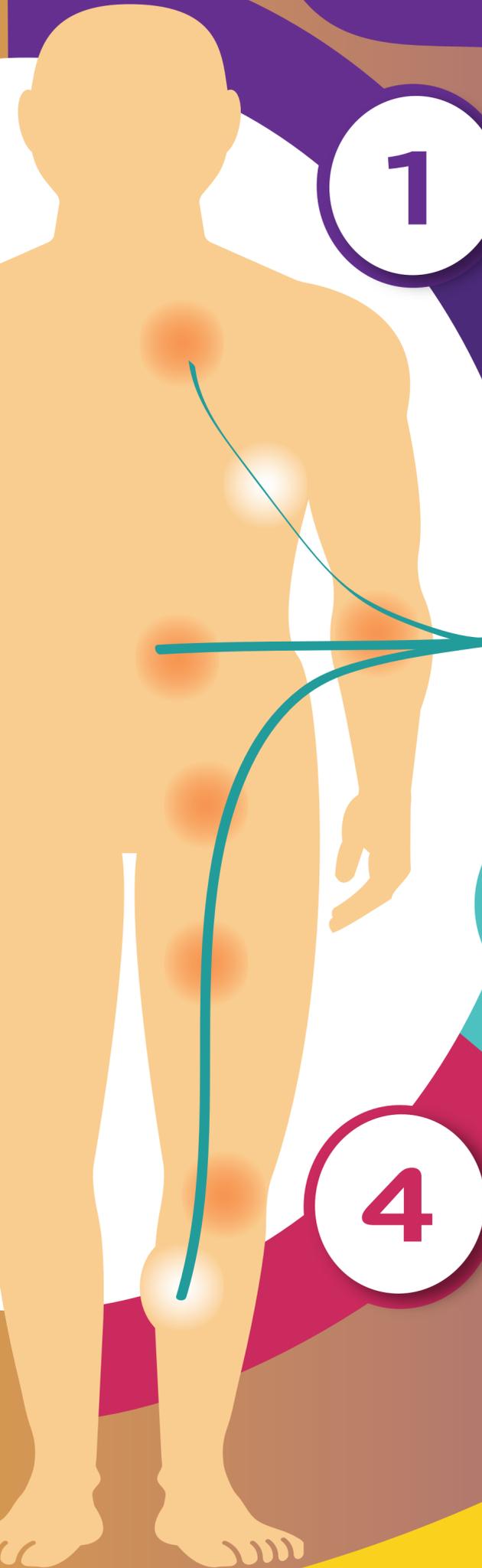
Very close contacts, especially those who live or used to live with you, are more likely to develop the illness. It is essential to be examined by the doctor initially and for another 5 years, as the first symptoms of the disease may take time to appear.

Contacts who don't have symptoms need to get a BCG vaccine booster, which will help protect against the severity of the disease.



How is the disease acquired?

Leprosy is transmitted from person to person through secretions from the respiratory tract (nose and mouth) and intimate and prolonged contact with an untreated patient. The disease has a slow evolution and after the contagion, the individual takes from 2 years to 10 to start the symptoms. Most people have natural resistance and do not get sick even when in contact with affected people.



1

As it is a disease that attacks the skin and nerves, it is necessary to be aware of any change in the nose, eyes, arms, legs or on the body to avoid sequelae.

2

The affected nerve can leave the skin dry, alter sensitivity to cold, heat and touch and even impair muscle movement and strength in the eyes, arms and legs.

3

It is essential to carry out SELF-CARE guidelines to prevent disabilities and avoid sequelae.

4

Watch the orientation videos on SELF-CARE and search the website by typing: "hanseníase PMSP".

Discover the disease and help to fight against it by spreading information about the signs and symptoms.