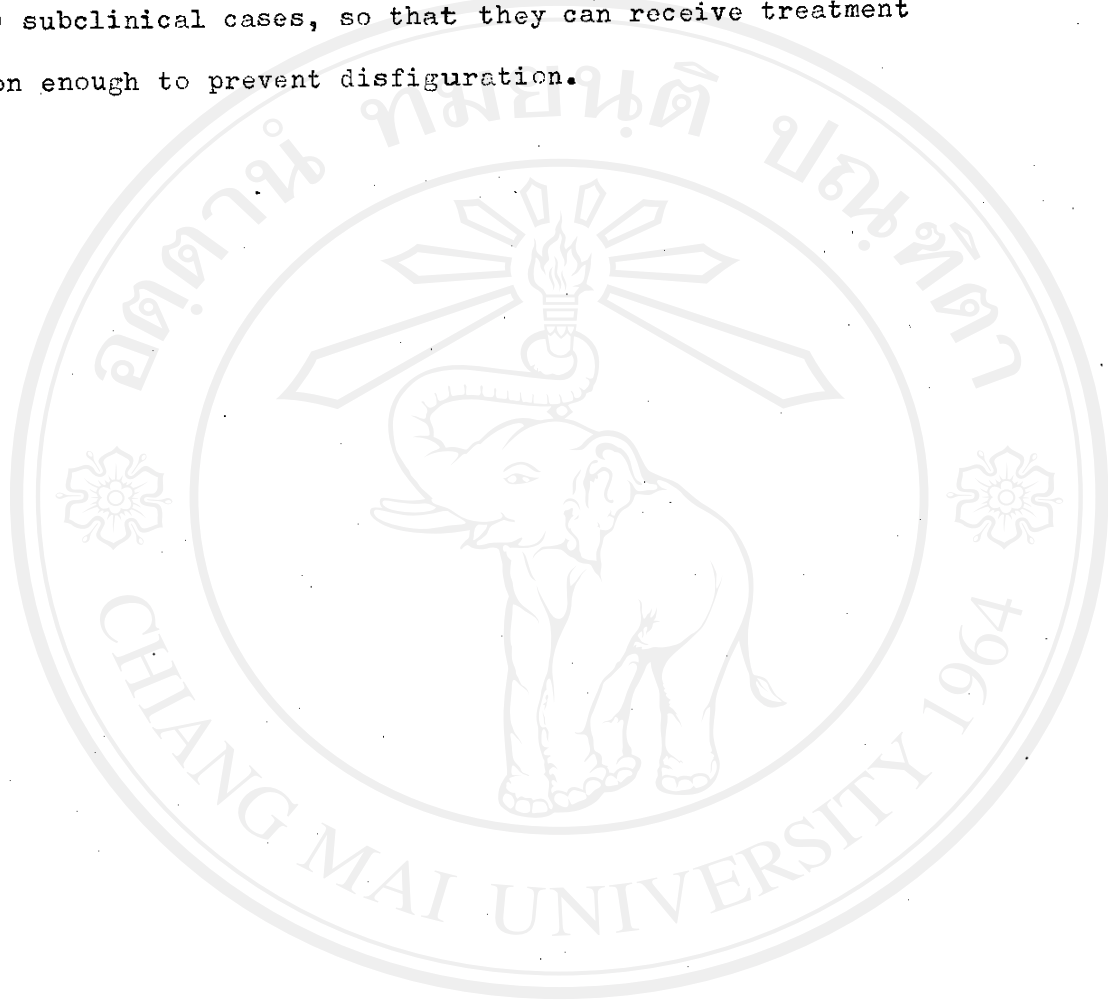


Thesis Title : Immunoepidemiological study of
leprosy.
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Thesis for : Master of Science in Microbiology

Abstract.

Leprosy is a disease with long incubation period. It would be desirable to detect the disease before any overt symptoms manifest themselves, so that early treatment may be given to prevent deformities. With this in mind, the Abe's FLA-ABS technique was modified for this purpose. In sera from 11 untreated and 81 treated leprosy patients, 88 familial contacts, 20 non-familial contacts in the leprosy village, and 14 of the leprosarium staff, anti-M. leprae antibody was found in 100%, 81%, 77%, 35% and 14% of the above groups of subjects respectively, whereas control groups of subject 15 pulmonary tuberculosis patients and 50 blood donors did not have this antibody. The IgM anti-M. leprae antibodies could be detected in 10 untreated lepromatous and treated lepromatous sera (less than 5 years). The IgM anti-M. leprae antibodies could not be detected from 12 familial contacts with lepromatous patient except only one gave positive result.

It is suggested that this method should be used to identify: (a) source of infection in the endemic area, so that measures can be taken to eradicate the disease; and (b) subclinical cases, so that they can receive treatment soon enough to prevent disfiguration.



ลิขสิทธิ์มหาวิทยาลัยเชียงใหม่

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