INTRODUCTION
Myelodysplasia or Myelodysplastic syndromes are a heterogeneous group of hematologic disorders broadly characterized by cytopenias associated with a dysmorphic and usually cellular bone marrow, and by consequent ineffective blood cell production.\[6\] Most of the studies both clinical and pathological are from western countries and clinical as well as laboratory data are scanty from India. In fact only a handful of studies, that too not concentrating much on clinical spectrum are available from India. As far as studies from the state of Kerala is concerned, there has not been any study of clinical behavior of myelodysplastic syndrome available till now. Hence the aim of this study is primarily to study the difference, if any, has myelodysplastic syndrome in our population, from that of western population. The purpose of this study is also to prognosticate the different sub types of myelodysplastic syndrome from the presenting clinical features and basic laboratory tests, so that in a country like India where genetic testing is still not available widely and doctors even in rural areas will be able to characterize and treat the patients according to easily available tools.
1. To study the clinical behaviour of myelodysplastic syndrome, its relationship to the initial presentation and to assess the prognosis of the various subtypes of myelodysplastic syndromes.

2. To study the prevalence of various autoimmune disorders in each of the subtypes of myelodysplastic syndromes.

3. To study the possible etiological factors in diet, environment, and lifestyle of the patients with myelodysplastic syndrome.