MATERIALS AND METHODS
All clinically and histologically confirmed cases of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) diagnosed in the Department of Medicine and Haematology, Calicut Govt. Medical College between July 2009 and June 2013 and followed up till December 2014.

- Clinical history taken including possible etiologies and predisposing causes searched.
- All age groups included except pediatric (<13 yrs).
- Patients were classified by World Health Organisation (WHO) classification and prognosticated.
- All clinical features were studied including autoimmune disorders along with it.
- Treatment was instituted depending on low, intermediate and high risk categories.
- Conditions pathologically simulating MDS like malnutrition, vitamin B12 and folic acid deficiency, tuberculosis, alcoholism, drug abuse, toxin exposure, prior chemotherapeutic therapy, prior radiotherapy and HIV infection were ruled out by history and investigations.

All patients were kept under follow up and subsequently developing clinical features with changes in blood count observed. If abnormalities in blood count occurred, repeat peripheral smear and bone marrow examinations were done.
Various clinical parameters were assessed and their relationship to outcome and complications analysed by using Chi-square test to quantitative variables and Man Whitney U test to assess distributive variables.

The statistical incidence and behaviour of various types of autoimmune disorders in each of the subtypes of MDS was studied using Chi-square test and compared with the existing data.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Patients lost to follow up.
- Patients whose pathological findings were not clear.
- Patients aged less than 13 years.