INTRODUCTION
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Leprosy commonly known as MAHAROG or KUSHNA is a chronic debilitating communicable disease. It has been prevalent since time immemorial almost over the whole world. SUSHRAT SAHITA compiled by Sushrat about 600 B.C. mentioned the disease as VED RAKTA and ARUNI KUSIHA. Other ancient Indian medical literature such as CHARAKA and VAGBHAATTA also mentioned about this disease. Today about thirteen to fourteen million people are known to be suffering from this disease in the world, of which about 3.2 million are in India, scattered in various parts.

In the past leprosy has been described as a disease horrible to live with, difficult to die with. The fact is that a large proportion of leprosy patients do not have an active life. The recent chemotherapeutic remedies available, on the disposal of the physicians, are a great boon in treatment of leprosy, if diagnosed early. In neglected and late cases when deformities occur, surgical care is much needed, which if not available in time will make the life of a leprosy patient inactive and he would depend upon charity for maintenance even it has been burnt out or cured.
Hansen was first to isolate mycobacterium leprae in 1973, since then the disease is also known as Hansen's disease. Disease has got very long incubation period. The maximum incubation period reported is as long as 40 years (Sharmendra, 1973), the average incubation period being about 2 to 5 years. It involves the peripheral nerves. The commonest nerves to be involved are ulnar, median, lateral popliteal, posterior tibial, branches of facial and sometimes radial nerve. Repeated and chronic neuritic of posterior tibial and lateral popliteal nerves or its branches causes damage and ultimate degeneration which lead to irreversible permanent insensitivity and motor paralysis of the foot. Gradually the chronic ulcers develop on the anaesthetic foot usually over the weight bearing parts. These ulcers are named as plantar ulcers or neuropathic plantar ulcers. They are resistant to local and systemic therapy and even if they heal, recur frequently.

Plantar ulcers are one of the most serious complication in leprosy. It is most disturbing, crippling, disgusting and also one of the chief cause for social ostracism. Various welfare organisations and missions are working to dispel the fear and superstition that surround the word "Loper". The duty of the surgeon is to see, how crippling defect of the
deformities can be overcome and the patient gains
his respectable position restored in the society, and
may become an active member of the family. So as he is
no longer a burden over the family, society and on the
country as a whole.

The aims of the present study are as follows:

1. To study the causative factors of plantar ulcers
   in leprosy.

2. To evaluate the efficacy of present surgical
   procedure "resection of underlying bone" in
   trophic ulcers.

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