

Question: ***Is it mandatory for a person diagnosed with Hansen's Disease to get treated?***

Answer: Well not from the standpoint of law. But it should be from a medical standpoint as it can spread from one to another.

Question: ***What is being done to prevent multi-drug resistance?***

Answer: Not much unfortunately is being done to prevent resistance at this time. Resistance does occur sporadically to one or two drugs but when multi drug therapy is used it is only rarely a problem.

Question: ***Does the organism stay dormant in the body and can it lead to disease years later when the immune system is down just like TB?***

Answer Yes it can. Or a patient may have paucibacillary disease and progress along the spectrum to multibacillary.

Question: ***How did the public react to the shift from mandatory hospitalization to outpatient treatment?***

Answer: There is a great write up about this time period, under the paragraph "US period III (Post 1980 through 2000) in this article: <https://bmcinthealthhumrights.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-698X-5-3>

This article also shows the impact of ambulatory care:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4284303/>

In a recent commentary article, Scollard (90) noted that the shift from confinement to outpatient treatment of HD, although unquestionably better for patients' families and social lives, has resulted in fewer opportunities for research on the disease. Throughout much of the 20th century, breakthroughs associated with HD treatment were made possible in part through the presence of a large number of people in closed communities who acted as voluntary or involuntary guinea pigs. This also means that fewer physicians specialize in the disease in general, and in countries where the disease is not endemic, very few physicians have experience with people with HD in its early stages.