

# **A Study of Medical Mis Diagnosis in Rural Government Hospitals of India**

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## **Abstract**

The profession of medical practice is deemed to be the most noble profession in the world. It is often implied as the profession of saving lives and preventing diseases. The nature has bestowed the beautiful capacity of protecting and saving lives among the doctors. India, being a developing country pays heed to a number of doctors and medical practitioners. India also stands top in the arena of medical tourism. The hospitals in India are broadly divided into government and private hospitals. There has always been an ambiguity on extent of medical mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals in India which has become a crucial topic for debates and discussions. This research attempts to find out various forms of medical mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals in India. By the help of this study, an attempt is made to analyse the effects of medical mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals of India and a step is taken to recommend effective ways to prevent medical malpractice in rural government hospitals of India with the help of secondary sources of data.

**Key words:** Medical mis-diagnosis, Rural Government Hospitals, India.

## **Introduction**

India is the country that has evolved from ancient traditions and culture. The medical practices in India which is mainly about the use of plants and herbs for treatment has caught the glare of limelight in the international perspective. Indian medical practice has attracted medical scholars and physicians across the globe. Even today the medical practice and treatment in India owe its origin to the ancient traditional practices followed by the ancestors. It is quiet interesting to note that in India the early treatment for most of the diseases are done at home with the help of local herbs and shrubs. India has shown a great progress in the medical sector and has also attracted a number of patients across the globe. The medical treatment given in India is quiet cheap when compared to other countries and the quality of treatment is well appreciable. India stands top in the case of medical tourism due to its cost effectiveness, quality and professional dedication of doctors. India pays heed to about two lakh doctors as on 2016. The professional dedication of the doctors and the quality of treatment rendered by them in India are recognised by various activists and doctors across the globe. Another factor that has constituted to the increasing number of foreigners into India for treatment is the amenities in hospitals. The hospitals in India are broadly divided into two types, namely the government and the private hospitals.

Private hospitals are such hospitals which are managed by private individuals whereas government hospitals are those hospitals which are managed by government directly. The government hospitals are mainly established in India for the welfare of poor and are affordable. The treatment done in these government hospitals are generally free of charge and the medicines prescribed are free. In most cases, it is presumed that the quality of treatment in the government hospitals of poor quality wherein compared to that of private hospitals. It is also speculated that the extent of mis diagnosis and malpractice in government hospitals in India are at a high stake. Medical malpractices are the process or an act in which an injury, hurt or grievous hurt is caused to a patient due to negligence or omission of a doctor or a hospital. Medical malpractices are of various kinds in which medical mis diagnosis and mis treatment are generally common. This research paper attempts to understand and analyse the degree of medical mis diagnosis and mis treatment in rural India.

## **Objectives**

1. To find out various forms of medical mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals in India .
2. To study the causes of mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals of India.
3. To analyse the effects of medical mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals of India.
4. To recommend effective ways to prevent medical malpractice in rural government hospitals of India.

## **Research Methodology**

The research is based on secondary source of data, which include articles, books, journals and research papers.

## **Review of Literature**

Erin P. Balogh, Bryan T. Miller, and John R. Ball (2012) studied various forms of medical malpractices identified in the society. The study categories medical malpractices into three groups. One such important form of medical malpractice is medical mis diagnosis. Further, researchers suggested several ways to prevent medical mis diagnoses.

**Joann G. Elmore (2014)** identified various types of medical negligence in India. The author stated the reasons for medical negligence in India and analysed the effects of medical mis diagnosis in India. The focus of the study was on the effects of medical mis diagnosis with respect to the hospitals.

**K.M. Welvin Jobes (2014)** The conditions of rural hospitals in India was studied by Welvin Jobes(2014). The study divides the rural hospitals into three types: rural primary hospitals, rural government hospitals and rural private hospitals. The author states that it is important to have a legislation for maintaining the standards of rural hospitals in India.

## **Limitation of the study**

Since, there is no primary source of data which in turn will act as a drawback in the research.

## **Hypothesis**

**H<sub>01</sub>:** The extent and impact of medical mis diagnosis is adverse in nature in the case of rural government hospitals in India

**H<sub>02</sub>:** The extent and impact of medical mis diagnosis is not adverse in nature in the case of rural government hospitals in India

**H<sub>11</sub>:** The medical mis treatment is based on the availability of facility in the rural government hospitals in India.

**H<sub>12</sub>:** The medical mis treatment is not based on the availability of facility in the rural government hospitals in India.

## **Cause of Medical Mis diagnosis and its forms in rural government hospitals of India**

The term medical mis diagnosis means or refers to the process by which a physician fails to identify the ailment of a patient accurately. It is the action of a doctor which he or she negligently fails to identify the diseases of the patient correctly. In rural government hospitals of India, medical mis diagnosis could be found through various forms. Wrong diagnosis is the process by which a doctor wrongly identifies the elementary condition of the patient. In most of the cases the doctors in the rural government hospitals give treatment for common viral fever that are caused due to allergies. The cause for wrong diagnosis is due to lack of professional knowledge among the doctors because most doctors in rural hospitals are newly recruited and they join as freshers to the professional practice. Delayed diagnosis occurs when a doctor fails to recognise and identify the disease of the patient in the early stages. In case of rural hospitals in India, uterus cancer in women is generally not found in the early stage because there is no proper facilities available in the hospitals. Failure in diagnosis occurs or mis diagnosis when the physician fails to identify the the ailment suffered by the individual. In most cases the rural government hospitals fail to identify dengue disease in the patients which results into death. This occurs when the doctors lack experience and when there is no proper medical facilities in the hospitals. Generally, leptospirosis occurs in contiguous with typhoid or malaria but in most government hospitals the doctors give treatment only to leptospirosis and not

to its abutting disease. Mis diagnosis of complementary diseases occur only when there is no diagnostic facilities available in the hospitals. Therefore the general causes for medical mis diagnosis include:

1. Lack of professional experience: Many doctors in rural government hospitals of India lack professional experience. Most of them are not updated with the present medical researches which by itself is a cause for medical mis diagnosis.
2. Lack of diagnostic facilities: There are no updated diagnostic facilities available in the rural government hospitals of India, which makes the doctor difficult to correctly identify the ailment suffered by the patient thus adding on to the causes of medical mis diagnosis.
3. Negligence of the doctor: In most cases, medical mis diagnosis occurs only as a reason of negligence by the doctor who is treating the patient. When the doctor is negligent in giving the treatment to the patient, it amounts to medical mis diagnosis.

### **Effects of Medical mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals of India**

The effects of medical mis diagnosis can be categorised into two forms namely effects on the patients and effects on the hospitals.

#### **(a) Effects on the patients include:**

1. Side effects: When the patients consume wrong medicine for the ailment that he or she is suffering, it results in to side effects. This is very common in the case of rural government hospitals which force the patients to move to urban hospitals.
2. Death: In some cases when the patients disease is not diagnosed properly, it results in to death. In the cases of dengue, due to lack of proper diagnosis, many patients lose their life.
3. Aggravation of the diseases: In the cases of uterus cancer, there is no proper facility to identify it in early stages and to diagnose, which results in the aggravation of the disease and condition with which the patient is suffering.
4. Nervous problems: When the disease suffered by the patient is wrongly diagnosed, it results in wrong administration of medical treatment which in turn results in nervous weakness because of the deposition of medicines, administered, on the nerves.

#### **(b) Effects on hospitals include:**

5. Losing the goodwill of the hospital: When there are frequent mis diagnosis, it results into deterioration of reputation of hospital. Many people have started going to the private hospitals since in rural hospitals, the quality of treatment is pathetic as a result of medical mis diagnosis.
6. Reduced inflow of patients: When there are frequent mis diagnosis, the patients inflow gets affected and patients restrict themselves to get diagnosed in rural hospitals and go to urban hospitals for their checkups.

### **Findings**

1. The effects of medical mis diagnosis is adverse in nature in the case of rural government hospitals.
2. The major cause of medical mis diagnosis is lack of diagnostic facilities in rural government hospitals in India.
3. Lack of professional quality and knowledge among the doctors is also a cause of medical mis diagnosis in government hospitals of rural India.
4. In most cases, uterus cancer is found in later stages in rural hospitals of India due to lack of technological advancement.
5. Negligence of doctors is also a main cause of mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals in India.

### **Suggestions**

1. A statutory body needs to be constituted for maintaining and monitoring medical mis diagnosis.
2. An authority is required to be appointed for the welfare of the patients
3. A legislation needs to be passed for preventing medical mis diagnosis.
4. State government has to allocate funds for updation in technology and monitor the expenditures to curb down corruption .
5. Diagnostic facilities need to be improved in the rural government hospitals in India.

### **Conclusion**

From this study, it is clear that medical mis diagnosis is a major cause of worry in rural government hospitals. There are various forms of medical mis diagnosis which includes wrong diagnosis, delayed diagnosis, failure in diagnosis and failure to diagnose the complementary diseases. The

study reveals that in most cases the doctors in the rural government hospitals give treatment for common viral fever that is caused due to allergies. The cause for wrong diagnosis is due to lack of professional knowledge among the doctors because most doctors in rural hospitals are newly recruited and they join as freshers to the professional practice. The effects of medical mis diagnosis on the patients include side effects, nervous weakness and aggravation of diseases. It could be understood that in some cases, when the patients disease is not found in early stage it slowly results into death. Medical mis diagnosis effects on hospitals include reduced inflow of patients and reduction in reputation of the hospitals. Negligence of doctors is also a main cause of mis diagnosis in rural government hospitals in India. Thus, it can be suggested that a legislation needs to be passed for preventing medical mis Diagnosis and Diagnostic facilities need be improved in the rural government hospitals in India.

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