

NATURAL HISTORY OF DISEASE

Natural history of disease signifies the way in which a disease evolves over a time from the earliest stage to its termination as recovery, disability or death, in the absence of treatment or prevention. • Natural history of disease is best established by cohort studies/ longitudinal study. • Consists of two phases

- 1. Prepathogenesis (i.e., the process in environment).

- 2. Pathogenesis (i.e., the

1. PREPATHOGENESIS PHASE. • Refers to period, preliminary to the onset of disease in man. • The disease agent has not yet entered man, but the factors which favor its interaction with the

human host are already existing in the Environment • Interaction of agent, host & environment (epidemiological triad) determine not only the onset of disease process in man but also the distribution of disease in the community • Primary level of prevention is possible

2. PATHOGENESIS PHASE • Begins with the entry of disease agent in the Susceptible Host • Disease agent multiplies & induces physiological changes • Final outcome of the disease may be recovery, disability or death • Host can also become a clinical case, subclinical case or carrier • Secondary & Tertiary level of prevention are possible • Screening of disease may improve prognosis & increase survival i. Early pathogenesis phase • This phase in chronic disease is referred to as Presymptomatic Phase ii. Late pathogenesis phase • By the time, Signs & Symptom appears the disease is already well advanced into the late pathogenesis

phase