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**Title:** Spatial and temporal epidemiology of *Mycobacterium leprae* infection among leprosy patients and household contacts of an endemic region in southeast Brazil.

**Running title:** Spatio-temporal epidemiology of leprosy.

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**Competing interests:** None declared.

**Ethical approval:** Research protocol was approved by an independent ethics committee at the Federal University of Uberlandia (#1.127.833). All participants were informed about the research, voluntarily agreed to take part in this study without any financial incentive and signed consent forms.

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