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Association between different socio-demographic factors and tuberculosis infection in HIV patients and the health seeking behavior of them, attending a tertiary care hospital in Kolkata, West Bengal

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Background: HIV is considered to be the most potent risk factor for progression to active TB among those infected both with TB and HIV and as a result TB is the most life threatening opportunistic infection associated with HIV and biggest cause of death among patients with AIDS. In areas hard hit by HIV like India TB is increasing leading to greater case load thereby overstressing the already fragile health infrastructure. To achieve an effective, accessible, acceptable and affordable control program it is very much essential to address the health seeking behavior of the HIV positive patients.

Objectives & Methodology: An Institution based observational and cross-sectional study was done to see the association between different socio-demographic factors and tuberculosis infection in HIV patients and to study the health seeking behavior of patients having HIV with TB and HIV without TB.

Findings: In this study 104 cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed out of 500 HIV patients. It has been observed that the maximum concentration of HIV-TB co-infection patients are in the age group of 31-45 years (total 23%) and among the HIV-TB co-infection patients 79% are male and 21% are female. The other significant factors are literacy, occupation, economic status, housing and addiction etc.

Recommendation: Extensive awareness program regarding HIV/AIDS and TB is needed.

Biography

Shibani Datta is a Professor of Public Health in All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. She was a Professor of Calcutta Medical College in West Bengal, India. She was the Team Leader of Central Surveillance team of India. Many of her research works have been published and presented in national and international journals and conferences.

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