

JOINT EVENT

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Understanding diagnosis, cure and relapse of extra pulmonary tuberculosis; TB meningitis, TB pericarditis and spinal TB**Jennifer Collins**

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Extra pulmonary tuberculosis (EPTB) is a variety of manifestations of tuberculosis (TB) which are known to be life threatening and in some cases to cause lifelong disability. The management of pulmonary tuberculosis has long been at the forefront of public health strategies, however extra pulmonary tuberculosis, has not received the same attention. Currently international guidelines for EPTB are within guidelines for pulmonary tuberculosis with no separate guidelines for these conditions. Randomized controlled trials (RCT) were conducted to understand the common definitions being utilized. Interviews were then conducted to understand the current method of diagnosis of the conditions by medical specialists. A content analysis of these interviews was then undertaken to discover the frequency and prioritization of concepts. This study researched international literature and conducted interviews with specialists in South Africa, Malawi and the United Kingdom. In the review of the trials there was a lack of uniformed parameters for diagnosis, cure and relapse. The research discovered there is a variation in specialists' definitions of diagnosis, cure and relapse for EPTB. There are no agreed definitions for diagnosis, cure or relapse in the studied forms of EPTB. Clinicians use mainly clinical information and test help to confirm their diagnosis. The creation of more precise definitions will require a larger project, but this would be useful to help standardise research and evaluation of interventions, and also to help standardise and audit care.