

Tuberculosis among the foreigners in Taiwan

Abstract:

PURPOSE : To investigate the epidemiology and treatment outcomes of foreigners with tuberculosis (TB) in Taiwan.

METHODS: Newly notified TB cases of foreigners during 2000-2004 were obtained from the Taiwan National Tuberculosis Registry. The demographic characteristics, age, sex and bacteriologic data were analyzed. The crude incidence rates of foreigners with TB estimated and analyzed by different groups. The treatment outcomes of foreign spouses were calculated and compared with those of native cases during the same periods.

RESULTS : The average crude incidence rate of foreigners with TB was 78/100,000 during the four years, higher than that of Taiwan(71.96/100,000). The mean age of foreigners with TB was 30.7 ± 9.6 years, with a predominance in female patients(male/female=0.53). The treatment outcomes of foreign spouses with TB were similar to those of native TB cases (success rate : 92.9% vs. 90.1% and default rate : 2.2% vs. 1.4%) .

CONCLUSION : The foreigners with TB were younger than the native TB cases. There was no difference in treatment outcomes between foreign spouses and native TB patients. Further monitoring the epidemiologic trends in foreigners with TB is mandatory for national TB control programs in Taiwan.