

## **Abstract**

**Background:** A accurate and timely surveillance system is paramount important to infectious disease control. After the reformed tuberculosis prevention system, the notification system is in high priority. Nevertheless, very few studies focused on the delay and non-reporting of tuberculosis cases and associated factors.

**Objectives:** To determine the delay reporting of tuberculosis cases through the linkage of National Health Insurance Claims data and notification data of Center for Disease Control.

**Methods:** We used the notification data of the year 2002 through 2003 from Center for Disease Control of Taiwan. These notified cases were then linked to the NHI claims data. Our primary indicator was the day between the first diagnosis of tuberculosis and notification day. We then analyzed the delay reporting by hospital level, age and bureau.

**Results:** The delay report rate decreased to less than 1% in 2003. The delay report rates varied with different hospital level and county. The linkage record revealed that more than ten thousands of cased had tuberculosis diagnosis before they reported the cases to CDC.

**Conclusions:** Further study should focus on these hidden delay reporting cases.

**Keywords :** tuberculosis ; non-reporting ; delayed reporting