

A survey of tuberculosis control program: the practical experience of a regional hospital in Southern Taiwan

Abstract

Background

After SARS outbreak in Taiwan, there were several nosocomial TB infection noted in many regional hospitals. This situation could not make us not to face the important of nosocomial TB infection. The aim of the study was to explore the index about nosocomial TB infection at a regional hospital.

Methods

We collected total 343 patients who were diagnosed as pulmonary TB as our study population from 2002~2005 in a regional teaching hospital located at the south region of Taiwan. We reviewed the medical records of these patient and collected the data including general information of patients, clinical alerts, effectiveness of laboratory examination and the time period from patients entering hospital until isolated.

Results

Of 343 pulmonary TB patients, the majority were male, older than 50 years old and jobless. Cough and fever were the most common symptoms and 27% had the history of diabetes. The lesion of CXR showed that upper lung infiltration was the major picture (24%), 76% patients were confirmed diagnosis at chest clinics (especially at OPDs). About the part of clinical alert, 78% patients suspected as TB at the first time seeking for medical help, and in them 54% were visiting OPDs. The clinical alert was best at visiting OPDs, and worst at hospitalization as first time seeking for medical help. The average time period from entering hospital until isolated was 20.52 days.

Conclusion

We suggested that enhancement the older of TB diagnosis at emergent medical department and hospitalization is important. Besides, delay diagnosis of TB at hospitalized patients would cause more TB exposure and then maybe induce high risk of nosocomial TB infection.