

Factors associated with tuberculosis in children aged 0-14 years at Arthur Davison Children's Hospital in Ndola, Zambia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Paediatric tuberculosis (TB) has been overlooked because of challenges of diagnosing it and lower priority afforded to children by TB programs, as a result, both research and surveillance data in TB is greatly limited. The aim of this study was to determine factors associated with TB and its trends in children aged 0 to 14 years attended to at ADCH in Ndola, Zambia

Methods: A retrospective study was conducted where 97 files of TB patients at ADCH diagnosed bacteriologically or clinically for the years June 2016 to June 2018 were reviewed using a standardized checklist. Data was entered and analysed using SPSS version 23.

Results: A total of 78.4% were definite TB cases, 57.7% were males and 40.2% were aged 8 years and more. More than a third (33.0%) of patients had positive TB contact from family, 40.2% had HIV co-infection, 25.0% had malnutrition and Pulmonary TB was the most (51.5%) prevalent type.

Conclusion and recommendation: Age, TB contact from an adult, HIV co-infection and malnutrition are important risk factors of paediatric TB. Therefore, any paediatric patient with these factors should be considered at risk of having TB and require very thorough examination to rule out the presence of TB.

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Key words: Arthur Davison Children Hospital; Paediatrics; Risk factors; Tuberculosis