

NDRYSHIMET NDËRMJET SEKSEVE NË SËMUNDSHMËRINË E TURBEKULOZIT NË SHQIPËRI

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Summary

GENDER DIFFERENTIALS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN ALBANIA

Background: Worldwide, more men than women are diagnosed with tuberculosis, a difference commonly attributed to biological and epidemiological characteristics as well as socioeconomic and cultural barriers in access to health care. Literature on gender and TB is scanty and the World Health Organization has encouraged gender specific comparisons in TB rates to determine whether women with TB are less likely than men with TB to be diagnosed, reported, and treated.

Objective: To explore various factors that may explain sex differences in tuberculosis incidence rates in Albania from 2001 – 2006.

Methods: A retrospective epidemiological analysis of sex- specific tuberculosis incidences rates in Albania from 2001–2006. Stratified analyses were performed according to sex and the age at diagnosis, smear status, pulmonary and extra pulmonary form, new and retreated cases, treatment outcomes and residence.

Data were obtained from TB district registers, validated during monitoring visits and registered in National TB register. For calculation of incidence rates, newly registered and relapse cases, data were included according to WHO recommendations and Epi info 2002 version 3.2 and SPSS is used. Population denominator data were obtained from National Institute of Statistic.

Results: In the study period, the male to female incidence rate ration for new pulmonary TB cases was 2. Higher proportion of male is noticed for all group ages and is constant every year. In our study the proportion of incidence rate is related directly to the incidence of disease. The higher the incidence of TB pulmonary case the lower the proportion.

Conclusion: The females are not under diagnosed in Albania and sex difference in TB pulmonary cases doesn't constitute an issue for TB control. Male constantly are affected more than female by tuberculosis and this is related to biological and behaviour differences between sexes. Women trend to develop more TB diseases in areas with high TB incidence.

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