Factors influencing patient delay among pulmonary tuberculosis patients: a systematic literature review

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Background:
Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex. Although there are many awareness-raising and prevention campaigns around the world, it remains a major global health problem. It has been long recognised that delayed presentation, diagnosis and treatment leads to increased levels of transmission and mortality.

Aim
To explore factors which may influence pulmonary TB patients delaying initial TB presentation and treatment.

Search strategy
- An integrative review
- Search terms: tuberculosis, delay, factor, and interval
- Databases: CINAHL, Academic Search Premier, and Medline
- Date limits: 2000 – 2018
- PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram was followed:
  - 11 qualitative studies included
  - 194 quantitative studies included
  - 2 mixed methods/studies included

Results

Sociodemographic-economic
- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Occupation
- Income
- History of being prisoner

Health behaviour
- Alcohol use
- Cigarette use
- Drug use

Knowledge and attitude
- TB knowledge
- TB recognition
- TB stigmatisation

Family and social
- Number of family members
- Social support

Health status
- Chronic disease

Clinical of TB symptoms
- Symptom type

Accessibility and availability to TB services
- Travelling distance
- Travelling time
- Mode of transportation

Satisfaction with health care services
- Health insurance
- Expenses for treatment

Health seeking behaviour
- Self-treatment
- Type of the first health care facility
- Reason for consultation
- Number of visit

Conclusions
The literature review pointed out the essentials for further study of how these factors may influence patients in delaying treatment which has informed the design of my PhD study. Health policymakers and health providers should consider these findings when developing policies to improve health service system especially TB screening system.

Reference