Tuberculosis and its presentation in inpatient units of a university hospital

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Background and challenges to implementation - Controlling tuberculosis (TB) in Brazil and in the world still represent a challenge to be conquered. Specially in Rio de Janeiro where it is very common to be found a TB case at hospital (around 25% cases have been notificated from hospitals) it could represent an extra issue to be solved. Intervention or response - This descriptive study with a quantitative approach had been developed after another study at the same hospital with the intention to verify indirectly how impact the fist one made. The following objectives: Identify the inpatient units at risk for exposure to TB; Analyze the number of sputum smears and cultures required in inpatient units; Classify the samples of sputum smears and positive cultures of the type of TB; Correlate the TB cases reported with positive samples of sputum smear and cultures. The data collected in the period January-September 2012. Results and lessons learnt - Clinical units with the highest rate of cases were found in an internal medicine ward where there isn't proper isolating room. Lack of correlation of institutional profile with the data presented in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro which means undernotations. It still remain a urging need to continue speaking about TB with patients and theirs visitors, during shifts with healthcare workers and residents; as well as classes with students. Those strategies should be put in practice to avoid the sense of trivialization and / or no perceived risk of infection and subsequent illness. Conclusions and key recommendations - More and more people are under risk. There isn't enough measures to evaluate a real impact of TB at hospital. There isn't enough quantitative of isolating rooms. Need for development new strategies focused on biosafety. It is necessary create foruns for discussion under multiprofessional's perspectives.

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