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A statement about future TB incidence and treatment adherence in developing countries if urgent measures are not taken

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(P010)

Introduction

Romania is one of the most affected countries by TB infection, a major public health issue, with important social, racial and economic impact.

Objectives

This study is focused on the people living in villages inside Mures County, Romania. It's an assessment about demographics and their knowledge about TB. The goal is to increase community awareness about this illness and to support general practitioners to diminish the incidence of TB.

Materials, Methods

A listed questionnaire with 10 simple questions translated into Romanian. The survey method, involved questioning random adult villagers, between 01.12.16-01.04.17.

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Table 1

Age (mean years)	32.1
Avid smokers + Alcohol addiction	76%
Females	72%
Males	28%
No Medical Insurance	19%
Have a job	63%
Had never heard of TB	24%
Did not know the mode of TB transmission	88%
BCG vaccinated	89%
If TB is suspected, would seek medical help	51%
Believe that TB is a problem in their village	45%

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

GENDER

DO YOU SMOKE AND DRINK ALCOHOL OFTEN? YES NO

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT TB IS A PROBLEM IN YOUR VILLAGE? YES NO

DO YOU HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE? YES NO

DO YOU HAVE A JOB? YES NO

HAVE YOU HEARD OF TB? YES NO

DO YOU KNOW THE MODE OF TB TRANSMISSION? YES NO

ARE YOU BCG VACCINATED? YES NO

IF YOU SUSPECT TB, WOULD YOU SEEK MEDICAL HELP? YES NO

Results, Conclusions

312 subjects (answered all questions).

Mean age of responders is 32.1 years.

Females are more interested in safety and healthy manners.

Over 75% of participants have bad habits like smoking and drinking. Above 85% did not know the mode of TB transmission. If TB is suspected, they are not convinced if they need professional help or if TB represents a danger to others.

Discussions

Weak knowledge about TB is a primary obstacle.

These villagers, represent a high risk group for contracting TB. Access to online information and medical support, continues to be an area requiring improvement.

The lack of patient education material and decreased community investment in TB management is a national problem.

Fear for TB and stigma + late detection of the disease, need a fast and vigorous campaign, organized by a multidisciplinary team (pulmonologist, general practitioner, epidemiologist, psychologist).

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