

ABSTRACT FORM

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EPIDEMIOLOGY OF TUBERCULOSIS-HIV CO-INFECTION AMONG THE FIRST NATIONS POPULATION IN CANADA

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BACKGROUND

WHO estimated that 5.7% of all Canadian tuberculosis cases in 2007 were co-infected with HIV. This study describes such cases among the First Nations population, 1997-2006.

METHODS

Subjects included all new and relapsed First Nations' TB cases residing south of the 60° parallel. Trends in TB-HIV co-infection and mortality rates were tested. Distributions in age, sex, treatment outcomes, treatment mode and mortality were compared between TB cases with and without HIV co-infection.

RESULTS

Among 2,023 cases, 95 were confirmed HIV positive, giving a co-infection rate of 4.7% (18.6% if the denominator only included 526 TB cases with known HIV status). There was a significant increase in the biennial rate of TB-HIV co-infection ($p=0.02$), but no increased trend in mortality. Co-infection cases had a lower rate of successful treatment (62/65.3% vs. 1515/78.6%, $p<0.01$) and a higher mortality rate (20/21.1% vs. 151/7.8%, $p<0.01$) compared to TB cases without HIV infection.

CONCLUSION

The increasing trend in TB-HIV co-infection challenges TB prevention and control in the First Nations population. Measures need to be taken to improve the access to HIV testing for TB patients and vice versa, while improving, surveillance information sharing between TB and HIV programs.