

Screening of tuberculosis patients for Diabetes in public private partnership projects in India

Background

Diabetes is emerging as a major threat to progress made in tuberculosis control. Screening of all TB patients for diabetes and ensuring strict blood glucose control is important to improve the treatment outcomes. Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program has issued guidelines for screening and management of diabetes among TB patients. The aim of the study is to share the experience in screening of TB patients for diabetes in projects managed under public private partnership.

Intervention

Damien Foundation India Trust organized training for all the staff involved in TB control program in Salem (Tamil Nadu), Nellore (Andhra Pradesh) and South West Delhi. In 2014, after a brief training all the TB patients registered in third and fourth quarter were screened for diabetes using glucometer. At the time of registration, all the TB patients were enquired about history of diabetes. TB patients who were not aware of their diabetic status underwent random blood glucose test. Patients with random glucose value more than 110 mg/dl were screened with fasting blood glucose. If fasting blood glucose was more than 126 mg/dl, patients were considered as suffering from diabetes.

Results

During third and fourth quarter 2014, 1533 TB cases were registered for treatment. Among them 139 were found to be already suffering from diabetes. Out of 1394 patients who didn't know their diabetic status, 1347 (97%) underwent random blood glucose test. It was found that 380 patients had random blood glucose level >110 mg/dl, among them 322 were screened with fasting blood glucose. This screening initiative was helpful in diagnosing 37 new diabetic cases among TB patients. Overall 11.5% of TB patients were found to be suffering from diabetes. Most of the patients who already knew their diabetic status were found to be taking treatment from private sector, therefore coordination with them remains as a major challenge.

Conclusion

Screening of tuberculosis patients for diabetes is feasible. Future research should focus on coordination with private sector to improve management of diabetes.