

## Attention to HIV patients waiting to start HIV treatment to improve HIV care along the continuum

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### Abstract

#### Introduction and Rationale

In Ethiopia, there is a growing concern about the increasing rates of loss to follow-up (LTFU) in HIV programs during pre-antiretroviral treatment (pre-ART) period. Unlike patients on anti-retroviral treatment, there is little information about the factors associated with LTFU among pre-ART patients in Ethiopia.

#### Objective:

To identify factors associated with pre-ART LTFU among newly enrolled HIV-infected patients in Gondar University Hospital (GUH).

#### Materials and Methods

In multivariable analysis, the following factors were found to be independently associated with pre-ART LTFU: male gender [Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) = 2.00 (95% CI: 1.15, 3.46)], higher baseline CD4 cell count (251–300 cells/ $\mu$ l [AOR = 2.64 (95% CI: 1.05, 6.65)], 301–350 cells/ $\mu$ l [AOR = 5.21 (95% CI: 1.94, 13.99)], and >350 cells/ $\mu$ l [AOR = 12.10 (95% CI: 6.33, 23.12)] compared to CD4 cell count of  $\leq$ 200 cells/ $\mu$ l and less advanced disease stage (WHO stage I [AOR = 2.81 (95% CI: 1.15, 6.91)] compared to WHO stage IV).

Married patients [AOR = 0.39 (95% CI: 0.19, 0.79)] had reduced odds of being LTFU. In addition, patients whose next visit date was not documented on their medical chart [AOR = 241.39 (95% CI: 119.90, 485.97)] were more likely to be LTFU.

#### Results:

In multivariable analysis, the following factors were found to be independently associated with pre-ART LTFU: male gender [Adjusted Odds Ratio (AOR) = 2.00 (95% CI: 1.15, 3.46)], higher baseline CD4 cell count (251–300 cells/ $\mu$ l [AOR = 2.64 (95% CI: 1.05, 6.65)], 301–350 cells/ $\mu$ l [AOR = 5.21 (95% CI: 1.94, 13.99)], and >350 cells/ $\mu$ l [AOR = 12.10 (95% CI: 6.33, 23.12)] compared to CD4 cell count of  $\leq$ 200 cells/ $\mu$ l and less advanced disease stage (WHO stage I [AOR = 2.81 (95% CI: 1.15, 6.91)] compared to WHO stage IV). Married patients [AOR = 0.39 (95% CI: 0.19, 0.79)] had reduced odds of being LTFU. In addition, patients whose next visit date was not documented on their medical chart [AOR = 241.39 (95% CI: 119.90, 485.97)] were more likely to be LTFU.

#### Conclusion

The findings highlight the importance of giving considerable attention to pre-ART patients' care from the time that they learn of their positive HIV serostatus.

**Keywords:** Pre-antiretroviral treatment loss to follow-up, HIV patients, Ethiopia

# A study on Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases and its determinants among under fives in Arpookara Panchayat, Kottayam

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## Abstract

### Introduction and Rationale

Diarrhoea is considered a major cause of under-five mortality in India in spite of the declining trend in its mortality. It also contributes to malnutrition.

### Objective:

1. To study the incidence of acute diarrhoeal diseases among under five children of wards IX, X, XI of Arpookara Panchayat, Kottayam
2. To enumerate the determinants associated with the occurrence of diarrhoea

### Materials and Methods

A descriptive study was conducted in Wards IX, X, XI of Arpookara Panchayat, Kottayam. Study subjects included 158 children below 5 years. Study period was from April 29 to October 18, 2011. Data was collected from mothers using a pretested semi structured interviewer administered

proforma. The latrine, well, availability of soap at place of hand washing and garbage disposal were observed. Data was analysed using Epi info version 6.

### Results

Majority of study subjects were aged 4-5 years. 68 (38%) children developed diarrhoea in the past one year. Most children had only one episode. The incidence of diarrhoea was 0.61 episodes per child per year.

Occurrence of diarrhoea was associated with mothers' and fathers' educational status and mothers' occupational status. A higher incidence of diarrhoea was seen with lower education. Hand washing by the child before eating (chi-square 8.606,  $p=0.014$ ) and availability of soap at hand washing site (chi-square 10.772,  $p=0.001$ ) were associated with a lower incidence of diarrhoea. The occurrence of diarrhoea was associated with insanitary garbage disposal. There was no association with consumption of food from outside or water purification.

### Conclusion

The incidence of diarrhoea was 0.61 episodes per child per year. Hand washing before eating and availability of soap at the handwashing site were associated with a lower incidence of diarrhoea.

**Keywords:** acute diarrhoeal diseases, determinants, under five

## Condom use and HIV transmission among the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Inter Sexual (LGBTI) in Kaski District

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### Abstract

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#### Introduction and Rationale

Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are found in all occupations and professions, all cultural groups, all social classes, can be of any age and live in all areas of the country. Objective of the study was to assess the condom use and HIV transmission among them

#### Materials and Methods

It was a questionnaire based cross-sectional study done in the kaski district of Nepal. According to BDS regional office Kaski there are almost 300 Third gendered people that are in contact with BDS Kaski, which all are population of this study. The sample of this study was 36.3 percent of the LGBTI population.

#### Results

Out of 109, 46% used condom always and among them 2% were HIV positive, but 33% used occasionally and 6% were HIV positive, and rest 22% never used condom and 33% of them were HIV infected. Among the HIV positive 78% mode of transfer were unsafe sex and rest were needles.

#### Conclusion

Condom use among the LGBTI is less in Kaski district and among them few of them are HIV positive also. It will spread HIV to their clients and among them also. There is a urgent need of interventional programme among them.

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## Socio-demographic wise awareness of syphilis and its mode of transmission among Pokhara residents

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### Abstract

#### Introduction

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection caused by *Treponema pallidum*. The primary route of transmission is through sexual contact; it may also be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy or at birth, resulting in congenital syphilis.

#### Objective:

Objective of this study was to determine knowledge of people of Pokhara, Phulbari about syphilis.

#### Methods

The sample was randomly selected; structured questionnaires were used to collect data for people knowledge about syphilis. Data collection was done from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October.

#### Results

This study included 100 samples. There was a significant relationship between caste and factor viz cure of disease ( $p < 0.05$ ). There was a significant relationship between sex

and factor viz transmission from pregnant mother to her child ( $p < 0.05$ ). Literacy were 84% with [CI (75.3%, 90.6%)] There was a significant relationship between literacy and factors viz meaning of syphilis, mode of transmission of disease, transmission from pregnant mother to her child, symptoms of syphilis, syphilis acquired, prevention of syphilis ( $p < 0.05$ ). Mode of transmission through unsafe sex with infected person were 87% with [CI (78.8%, 92.9%)].

#### Conclusion

The study found that majority of the person has knowledge about Syphilis. They are aware about syphilis, its mode of transmission, its symptoms, cure and prevention. Sexual education and awareness should be introduced at the community level as a means of increasing peoples' awareness about the syphilis.

## Pulmonary and Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis: A study from a Tertiary Care Centre of Western Development Region of Nepal

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### Abstract

#### Background and Rationale:

In Nepal, about 60% of adults and 45% of the general population have been infected with Tuberculosis. Nearly 2% of the people infected every year. In Nepal nearly 80,000 people currently have TB, with more than 40,000 new cases arising every year

#### Methods:

A Comparative study on tuberculosis was done in Manipal Teaching Hospital, Fulbari, Pokhara from 2010 to 2012, which included 361 patients, aged 0.25 to 95 years old. The study samples were taken from DOTS clinic of Manipal Teaching Hospital.

#### Results:

Among 361 patients, 61.8% and 38.2% of males and females were affected with tuberculosis respectively. 55.1% of female patients had extrapulmonary tuberculosis (EPTB) and 44.9% had pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) while 39.5% of males had extrapulmonary tuberculosis and 60.5% had pulmonary tuberculosis. Tuberculosis was more common in 21-40 years age group (34.1%), PTB being 33.0% and EPTB being 35.4% while it was less common in age more than 60 years (18.0%). Ethnicity wise, Brahmin and Gurung held the higher percentage of tuberculosis (19.7%), 17.7% had EPTB while 21.3% had PTB while 21.3% had EPTB and 18.3% had PTB respectively.

#### Conclusion:

Tuberculosis was more common in males than females and in age group less than 40 years which concludes that the productive age group are mostly affected which has direct impact on the country's economy.

**Key words:** Pulmonary TB, Extrapulmonary TB, Age, Sex, Ethnicity, Nepal

## Understanding about pulmonary tuberculosis in people living in Pokhara valley

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### Abstract

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#### Introduction and Rationale

Pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) is a major cause of illness and death worldwide, especially in Asia and Africa. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one third of the world's population has been exposed to the tuberculosis pathogen.

#### Objective:

To assess the knowledge and awareness about pulmonary tuberculosis in people living in Pokhara valley.

#### Materials and Methods

Samples were randomly selected; structured questionnaires were used to collect patient knowledge and awareness about tuberculosis. This study was done from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October in Pokhara valley of Kaski district.

#### Results

This study includes 100 people from different places of Pokhara valley. There was the significant relationship between age and mode of transmission of pulmonary tuberculosis factor viz (mode of transmission of pulmonary tuberculosis is airborne ( $p$  value  $<0.05$ ). Age group of 21-40 has maximum knowledge regarding mode of transmission i.e. 64% with [CI (53.8%, 73.45%)]. There was the significant relationship between literacy and employment factor viz

(risk factors of pulmonary tuberculosis ( $p$  value  $<0.05$ ). Literate people had maximum knowledge regarding risk factor i.e. 80% with [CI (70.8%, 87.3%)].

#### Conclusion

The study found that majority of the person has awareness about pulmonary tuberculosis. They have got knowledge regarding mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, risk factors of pulmonary tuberculosis and also about the BCG vaccination. Nepal government need to conduct various programs related to risk factors, sign and symptoms and prevention of pulmonary TB. It must target patients, family members, and community and health care providers so that it will increase general awareness thus reducing the disease transmission. We should also conduct DOTS program to increase awareness among people to reduce the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

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# MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION FOR FILARIASIS- AN EVALUATION SURVEY OF SOLAPUR DISTRICT

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## Abstract

### Introduction and Rationale

A study done to evaluate the coverage and compliance of Mass Drug Administration with DEC as elimination strategy for lymphatic filariasis in solapur district.

### Objective:

To evaluate the MDA coverage in solapur district and to assess the compliance of beneficiaries regarding DEC drug intake.

### Materials and Methods

Study was conducted in 3 rural and 1 urban block of Solapur district. Multistage cluster sampling method was adopted in the study. 30 families from each cluster were selected randomly and head of family or any responsible family member was interviewed using a pre-designed, pre-tested schedule after taking written informed consent.

### Results:

The total number of houses surveyed was 120 with a

population of 592. Out of this 304 (51.35%) were male and 288 (48.65%) were female. The number of beneficiaries interviewed was 179. There were 145 persons who have not taken any drug during MDA activity. Although the compliance rate is > 50% (58.18%) with consumption of all three tablets, nearly 1/4<sup>th</sup> beneficiaries i.e., 25.49% have not taken any tablet. The drug compliance was poor in urban population (63.6%) as compared to rural population (83.5%). The coverage was also high in rural area than in urban area (98% and 89.1% respectively). The coverage compliance gap was more in urban area than in rural area (25.5% and 14.5% respectively). The total number of persons who swallowed drugs in presence of drug distributor was very less in both urban and rural areas i.e., 14.18% and 16.16% respectively (overall 15.71%). There were 93 persons who developed side effects. The Proportion of persons not taken drugs in urban area was relatively more than that of rural areas (46.7% and 15.5% respectively). Majority of side effects were due to lack of knowledge about Lymphatic filariasis and Mass drug administration. Fear of drugs was more commonly observed in rural areas as compared to urban area. Many people, both from rural and urban areas felt that there was no need to take DEC tablet as they were not having any disease.

### Conclusion

There is disparity in coverage and consumption of DEC and albendazole among urban and rural population due to lack of advertisement, poor social mobilization activities, lack of supervised dosing and lack of knowledge of the community about the disease and the program are major areas of concern which needs immediate actions.

# Socio-Economic Health Status' – A Study among people in Feridhoo Island of AlifAlif Atoll Republic of Maldives

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## Abstract

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### Introduction and Rationale

Socio-Economic Health Status is a descriptive term for a person and his position in the society. It determines the purchasing power, literacy status and prevalence of communicable disease in the community. The study in Feridhoo is an attempt to find the socio-economic health status of the community.

### Objective:

To study sanitation, immunization status, provision of safe drinking water facility and prevalence of communicable disease.

### Materials and Methods

100 families were selected as sample and it included 176 males and 112 females. For the study convenient sampling is used and a questionnaire was prepared by the author and by interview schedule, which was filled by the author himself.

### Results

95% of the families were using sanitary latrines  
100% Immunization below the age of 6 years in children  
100% families uses rain water as drinking water  
Dengue and Chickengunya were the common communicable diseases

### Conclusion

In the Island men were working in resorts or as fishermen. Male population is slightly more than female population. Rain water was the source of drinking water. Burning was the preferred waste disposal method. 95% were using sanitary latrines and 100% children under 6 were immunized. Primary mosquitoes the present control measures are not adequate. Health Centre was the only health facility available. Dengue and Chickengunya were the common communicable diseases. Since they are spread by Aedes

**Keywords:** Mosquito control, Dengue, Chikungunya

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