

Impact of war-related tuberculosis risk factors on treatment effectiveness

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Conflict of interest: none

BACKGROUND. Literature analysis indicates the relevance of the problem of increasing the effectiveness of tuberculosis (TB) treatment in Ukraine under martial law. A comprehensive assessment of various TB risk factors is an important component not only for its early detection and prevention, but also for the most effective treatment.

OBJECTIVE. To assess the impact of TB risk factors on the effectiveness of its treatment during the war in Ukraine.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. Data from a survey of 49 TB doctors on the assessment of the impact of war-related TB risk factors on the effectiveness of its treatment. Mathematical and statistical methods were used to evaluate the results.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. During the war, the importance of socio-economic and organizational factors increased, and many new war-related factors emerged. Among them, the following factors have the greatest impact on the effectiveness of treatment: organizational factors – worsening access to TB diagnostics and treatment, imbalance between the increased need for health care and the decrease in its capacity, damage to medical infrastructure, difficulty in accessing basic medical care, incomplete staffing, interruptions in the provision of medical care, deterioration in the supply of medicines and medical products; socio-economic – deterioration of living conditions, significant crowds of people, internal displacement of the population, homelessness, deterioration of material and financial support, financial and economic difficulties in the country, destruction of critical infrastructure, deterioration of sanitary conditions; medical – increase in endocrine, cerebrovascular, gastrointestinal diseases, coronary heart disease, arterial hypertension, HIV infection and psycho-emotional disorders, exacerbation of chronic diseases, decrease in HIV-infected people receiving antiretroviral therapy.

CONCLUSIONS. To ensure the success of TB treatment and prevention during and after war, it is necessary to adapt anti-TB interventions to the impact of war-related TB risk factors and ensure monitoring of trigger factors, which will help improve the provision of care to specific population groups and improve the TB assessment system to identify patients at risk of treatment failure.

KEY WORDS: tuberculosis, war, tuberculosis risk factors, treatment effectiveness.
