

STIGMATIZATION OF PATIENTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS

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Abstract

Stigma is a feature on the basis of which a negative stereotype is formed. The formation of stigmatization occurs at two levels of communication – interpersonal and mass. At the first level, a certain position is formed with respect to one or another person or group. On the second, mass communication plays a significant role. People who experience a stigmatization are perceived by others as deviant not because they violate social norms, but because they have certain characteristics (for example, the disease of tuberculosis) that force society to isolate them.

Stigmatization of patients with tuberculosis is an important problem that manifests itself at every stage of diagnosis and treatment. The manifestation of stigmatization in different historical periods was different, but in society there was always a prejudiced attitude towards those who had tuberculosis. This forced the patients to hide their illness from others.

Disease of tuberculosis should be considered as a psychotraumatic situation, which causes specific emotional reactions, behavior, can change the outlook, the attitude of a person to reality. Stress from the news of the diagnosis is largely due to the social stigmatization of the disease - widespread stereotypes of associating tuberculosis with ill-being, a social way of life. The emerging fear for one's health and the health of relatives in connection with potential infection also increases psychological traumatization. A disease that threatens the patient's life, destroys the psyche and disturbs the mental state, requires a rethinking and an inevitable change in one's life. Instead of getting moral support from others and to tune in to a positive result of treatment, people with tuberculosis experience a trauma.

The patient's mental state influences the course of the disease and determines its outcome. Overcoming of stigmatization can be considered as one of the ways to improve the effectiveness of treatment for tuberculosis patients.

The solution of the problem includes such important components as providing psychosocial assistance to patients, raising of the awareness of tuberculosis among different segments of the population and reviewing the tactics of timely detection of tuberculosis, taking into account the changed social and economic conditions. It will not be possible to cope with it only through the efforts of phthisiologist community. A significant place in the solution of the problem of stigmatization is given to the State. While the authorities in the country do not provide mandatory official employment, which provides for medical control of the state of health, until then it will be impossible to take control of the epidemic.

Key words: tuberculosis, stigmatization.

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