

**FACTORS INFLUENCING DELAY IN SEEKING
TREATMENT AMONG PATIENTS IN
TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC,
200 BEDDED GENERAL HOSPITAL,
HLAINGTHARYAR, YANGON REGION**

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ABSTRACT

Delay in seeking effective treatment for tuberculosis increase the level of disease morbidity and mortality rate well as the risk of its transmission in the community. A cross-sectional study was conducted among new pulmonary tuberculosis patients for factors influencing delay in seeking treatment among tuberculosis patients in TB clinic, 200 bedded general hospital, Hlaingtharyar, Yangon Region during September to November 2017. The study aimed to study predisposing, enabling and need factors of TB among new pulmonary TB patients attending at TB clinic, 200 bedded general hospital, Hlaingtharyar, Yangon Region. A total of 110 new smear positive pulmonary TB patients were involved in this study. Face to face interview was performed by using pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire. Mean age of the respondents was 39 years. and male were 61.8 %. It was found that 67.3 % were married. Regarding occupation, 79.1% were general workers. Among the respondents, 46.3% of the patients delayed over 30 days from the first symptom of TB to seeking treatment at TB clinic with a median delay 30 day. Main reasons for the delayed seeking was financial problem. Home remedies and drug stores were the first place for seeking treatment accounting for 49% and 27.5% each. There was not significant association between sex, monthly family income and patient delay. Common sources of the information about TB clinic was health care persons and private clinic accounting for 29.1% and 28.2% each. Source of information about treatment course were 37.3% in healthcare persons and 29.1% in hospital doctors and staff . Knowledge on TB was significantly associated with delay. Overall perception on severity of disease and benefits of treatment were not associated with delay in seeking treatment. This study showed physical barriers was associated with delay in seeking treatment, mode of travel from home to TB clinic was associated with delay in seeking treatment. This study recommended to strengthen the health education regarding with TB and to strengthen the existing Public-Private partnership.