

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out for the objective of assessing the costs incurred by multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients at Aung San TB Hospital, Yangon. It was a cross-sectional descriptive study. Data was collected by interview method with the use of semi-structured questionnaires from 42 MDR-TB patients.

In the study, the mean age of the study patients was 38.3 year with a standard deviation of 14.2 years. Male-female ratio was approximately 1:1. The education status of MDR-TB patients were nearly equally distributed around 20-30% among primary school level passed, secondary school level passed and high school level passed and graduated. Manual labourers were the largest proportion (28.6%) in the study population. More than half of patient's family income ranged from 100,000 to 200,000 kyats per month. Food expenditure constituted 82% of monthly family income. The average family size was five.

The average duration of suffering TB was 2 years and more than 80% of MDR-TB patients had completed both CAT I and CAT II Anti-TB treatment prior to the hospitalization. Among 42 patients, 18 patients gave history of hospitalization for similar attack within one year. Their average expenditure on previous hospitalization was 289,000 kyats.

The length of hospital stay varied from 15 to 43 days with a mean of 27 days. Diabetes mellitus, hypertension, liver and renal complications, HIV co-infection and psychiatric problems were found as co-morbidities among the MDR-TB patients. Forty five percent of the patients had Diabetes Mellitus.

Various types of cost were estimated and analysed by using the sample data obtained from the MDR-TB patients. The average total health expenditure during hospitalization was 549,000 kyats (median 513,000 kyats) with a range of 240,152 to 1256,698 kyats. More than 50% was due to direct non-medical cost which was followed by indirect cost (32%). Direct medical cost contributed only 10% of total health expenditure.