

Objectives • Provide an overview of tuberculosis • Describe risk factors and presentation • Describe screening practices • Describe management of tuberculosis • Present a case study from long term care

What's the Concern about TB in Long Term Care/Chronic Care Facilities?

- Large number of residents live in close environment – frequent and prolonged contact
- Residents may be more susceptible due to advancing age and/or impaired immune function

What is Tuberculosis?

- TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Airborne transmission by droplet nuclei from forceful expiration coughing , sneezing, shouting
- Nuclei can remain suspended in the air for several hours







Active Disease vs Latent TB Infection

- If the immune system is healthy and the granulomas can contain the bacteria (remain dormant), this results in Latent TB Infection (LTBI)
- If the granuloma cannot contain the bacteria, they escape, replicate and spread occurs leading to active disease

Active Disease vs Latent TB Infection

- 10% lifetime risk of disease in individuals with a healthy immune system
 - -5% primary disease < 2 years
 - 5% post primary disease > 2years





Incidence of Active Disease in Canada 2010

577 new active and retreatment ses	4.6/100,000
24	
-34 age group comprised 18% of ses	6.0/100,000
and up age group	9.6/100,000



Risk Factors for the Development of Active TB among Persons with LTBI

- Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 6th Edition identifies three categories of risk
 - High
 - Increased
 - Low

High Risk			
Risk Factors	Estimated Risk of Active TB		
AIDS	110-170		
HIV	50-110		
Transplantation related to immunosuppressant drugs	20-74		
Silicosis	30		
Chronic Renal Failure - Hemodialysis	10-25		
Carcinoma of Head and Neck	16		
Recent TB infection ≤ 2 years	15		
Fibronodular Disease on Chest X-Ray	6-19		

Increased Risk

Risk Factors	Estimated Risk of Active TB
Treatment with glucocorticoids	4.9
Tumor Necrosis factor (TNF) – alpha inhibitors	1.5-4
Diabetes mellitus (all types)	2.0-3.6
Underweight (< 90%)	2-3
0-4 years of age	2.2-5.0
Cigarette smoker (1 pack/day)	2-3
Granuloma on Chest X-Ray	2

Low Risk Risk Factors Estimated Risk of Active TB Infected person, no known risk factors, normal chest x-ray 1 Infected person, no known risk factors, normal chest x-ray 1 Infected person, no known risk factors, normal chest x-ray 1

Determinants of Transmission of Disease

- 1. Susceptibility of those exposed
- 2. Contagiousness of the patient
- 3. Infectivity of the strain
- 4. Extent of exposure duration, frequency, intensity
- 5. Environment air circulation, ventilation, proximity to the source

Preventing Transmission in Long Term Care

• Residents

- Baseline chest x-ray on acceptance into LTC
- Baseline two-step Tuberculin Skin Test not warranted unless the population the institution serves is at high risk i.e. from high incidence country or high incidence aboriginal community, former urban poor, HIV positive

Residents continued

- Annual or serial TST not necessary
- Assessment for history of TB treatment or contact

Preventing Transmission in Long Term Care

- Health Care Workers and Volunteers
 - TB infection control policies in place
 - Two-step TST at time of hire if TST negative or status unknown
 - Annual screening depends on the occurrence of TST conversion - can be discontinued if conversion rate < 0.5%

Health Care Workers and Volunteers continued

- N95 Respirator masks
- Education of staff
- Report any symptoms suggesting TB

Clinical Presentation of Active Disease

- 1. Cough persistent, unremitting, \geq 3 weeks duration,
- 2. Fever ≥ 7 days
- 3. Pneumonia unresponsive to antibiotics
- Symptoms of hemoptysis, night sweats, weight loss, anorexia, fatigue are seen in more advanced stages of disease
- Extra-pulmonary symptoms
- Presentation may be masked by existing co-morbid conditions

Management of Reactivated LTBI

- Referral to TB Control program
- Transfer infectious cases to negative pressure isolation room
- Investigations specimens, x-ray
- Symptom inquiry, physical assessment
- Chemotherapy by Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) or Directly Observed Prophylaxis (DOP)
- · Contact Trace to determine spread

Case Study Presentation

- Gentleman in late 70's admitted to hospital with decreased LOC, possible sepsis, possible GI Bleed (HgB 89), fever, and probable aspiration pneumonia
- Several underlying health issues including COPD and dementia
- Had been in 2 LTC facilities in the previous 14 months

- Too ill to give history, no family and limited documentation
- Started on antibiotics for aspiration pneumonia
- ID saw and requested sputums for AFB
- Placed in negative pressure isolation
- Chest X-Ray Bilateral airspace changes, consolidation RUL, right hilar mass

- Chest x-ray 3 years previously no evidence of disease
- 1 year prior to this admission TST of 25 mm and chest x-ray showed RUL volume loss with airspace changes and pleural thickening. No documentation that sputums sent for AFB
- CT scan 3 days post admission showed dense consolidation RUL with a cavitating mass RUL and pleural thickening

- Sputum results
 1st smear negative (5 days)
 2nd 6 AFB in cords (7 days)
 3rd 3+ (12 days)
- TB Control consulted, TB meds started
- Patient's condition worsened he expired 2 weeks later

Contact Trace

- Trace yielded 131 contacts
- Residents 20
- Staff 111
- TST status
 - Negatives 69
 - Positives 50
 - Unknown 12

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Age Group	Contacts
20 to 29	25
30 to 39	24
40 to 49	21
50 to 59	32
60 to 69	20
70 +	8
Unknown	1
Total	131



City of Dx	TST Negative	TST Positive	Unknown	Total
Community 1	1			1
Community 2	1			1
Community 3	1			1
Community 4	1			1
Community 5		1		1
Community 6	1	1		2
Out of province		1		1
Saskatoon	64	47	12	123
Total	69	50	12	131







