

Tuberculosis Among The Elderly in Malaysia

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Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious airborne disease. Globally, the number of TB cases among the elderly is about three times that observed in younger adults(1). The objective of this study is to describe the characteristics of Tb cases among the elderly in Malaysia.

Results

A total of 29,960 TB cases were registered among the elderly over the six years. Higher number of cases were seen among males (69.0%), Malays (42.9%) and those from rural areas (51.8%). Sarawak (16.7%), Sabah (15.5%) and Selangor (13.2%) were the top three states with the highest number of cases reported. Most of the cases were pulmonary TB (88.2%). Majority of the cases were non-smokers (70.6%) and non-diabetic (67.0%). In regards of treatment outcome, 68.5% of cases were successfully treated.

Methodology

This is a retrospective cross-sectional study. Registered TB cases from 2013-2018 were retrieved from Tuberculosis Information System (TBIS), a national tuberculosis registry compiled by the Tuberculosis Sector, Ministry of Health Malaysia. Cases aged 60 years and older were selected for further analysis using SPSS ver.20 to describe demographic and clinical characteristics, and treatment outcome.

Discussion/Conclusion

TB cases among males and rural residents were noticeably higher in our study. This is in line with studies in India (2) and Nigeria(3). With the rising elderly population, specific strategies are needed to quickly address TB management in the elderly.

		Percentage (%)
State	Johor	8.6
	Kedah	6.3
	Kelantan	6.6
	Melaka	2.5
	Negeri Sembilan	2.7
	Pahang	3.8
	Perak	7.9
	Perlis	0.7
	Pulau Pinang	6.2
	Sabah	15.5
	Sarawak	16.7
	Selangor	13.2
	Terengganu	3.3
	W.P. Labuan	0.2
	W.P. Kuala Lumpur	5.9
	Gender	Male
Female		31.0
Strata	Urban	48.2
	Rural	51.8
Nationality	Malaysian	97.0
	Non-Malaysian	3.0
Ethnicity	Cina	27.5
	India	4.6
	Melayu	42.9
	Lain-lain	1.2
	Orang Asli Semenanjung	0.4
	Peribumi Sabah	11.7
	Peribumi Sarawak	11.8
Diabetic	Yes	33.0
	No	67.0
Smoking	Yes	29.4
	No	70.6

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of TB among the elderly.

Figure 1 : Clinical characteristics of TB among the elderly

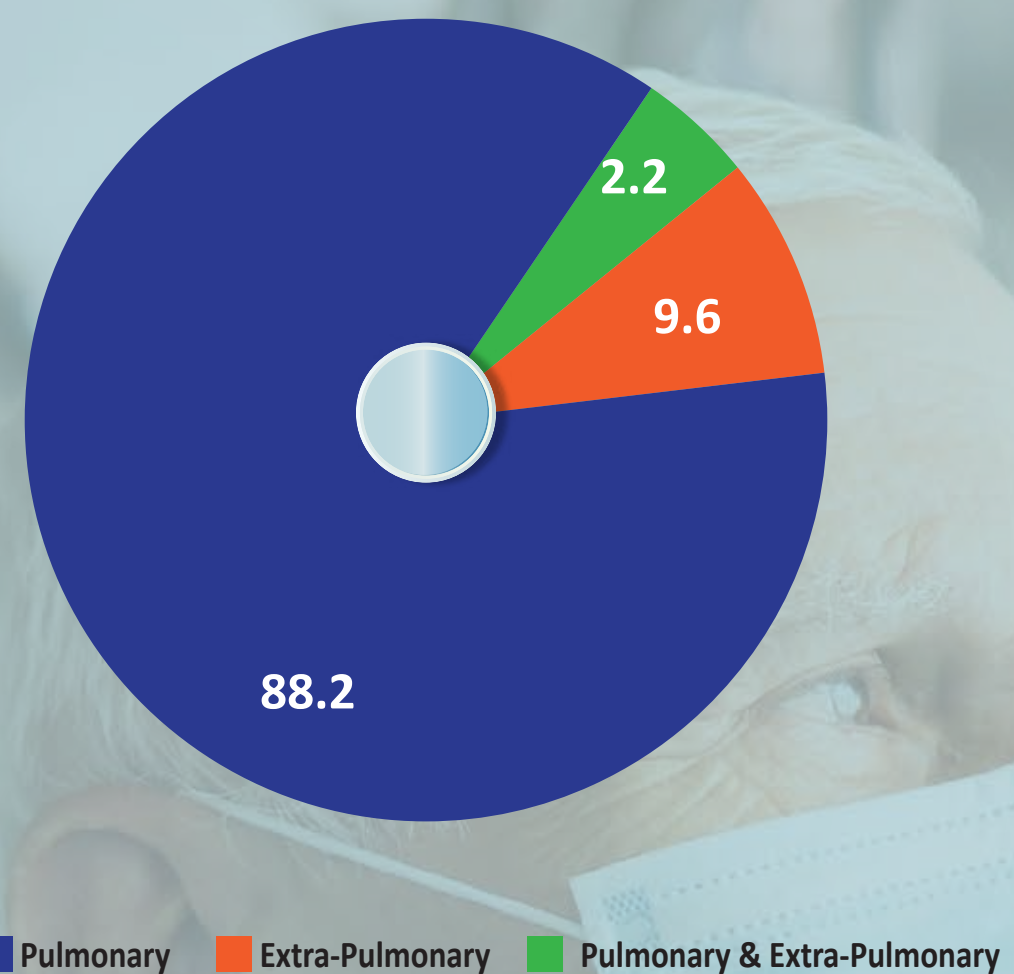
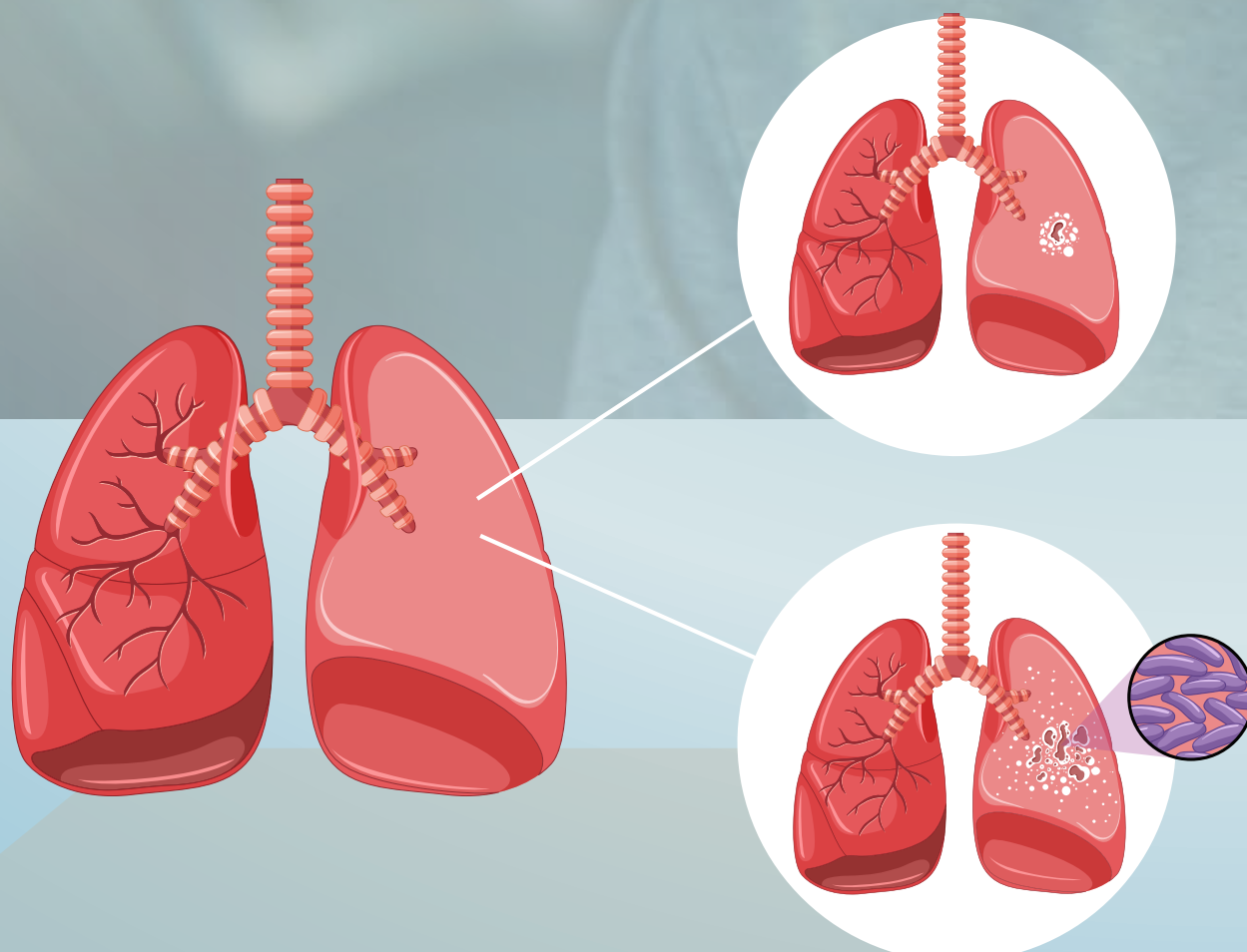
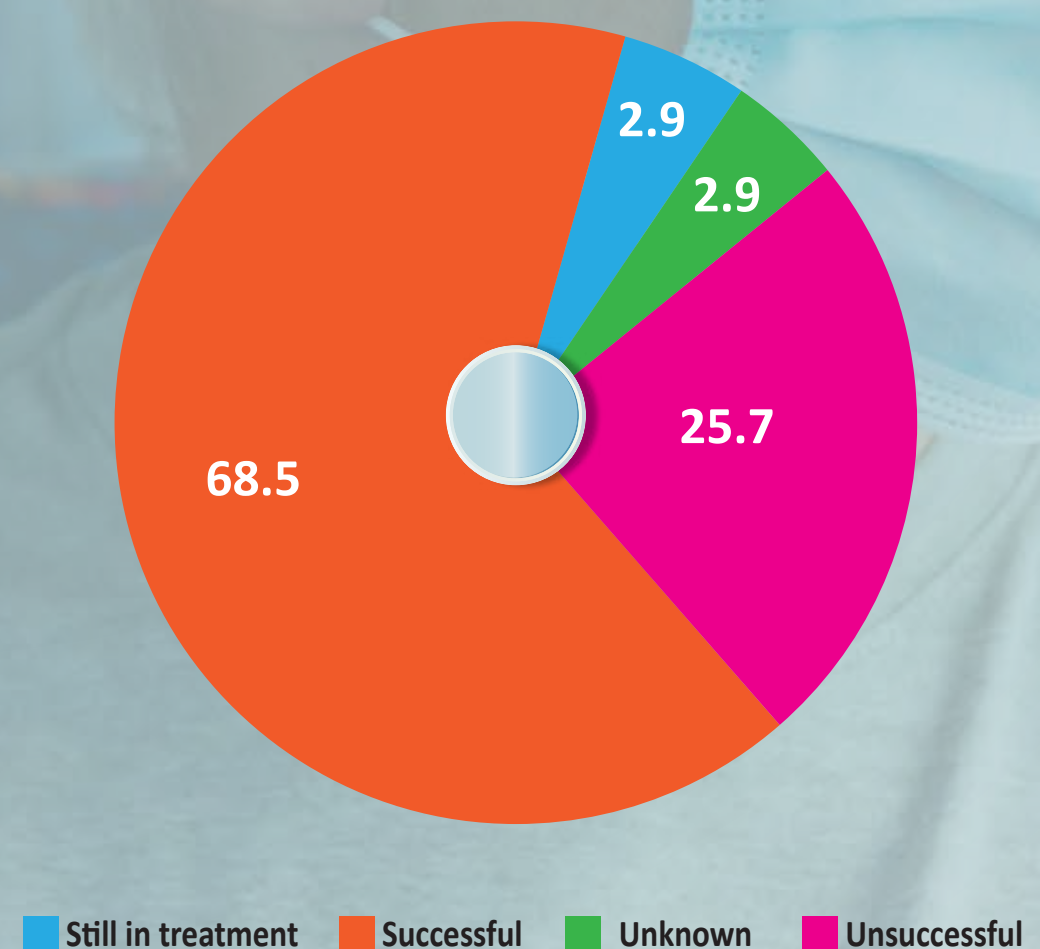


Figure 2 : Status outcome of TB cases among the elderly



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