

Immigrant, Tuberculosis Status and Duration of Residence in Malaysia: A Descriptive Analysis

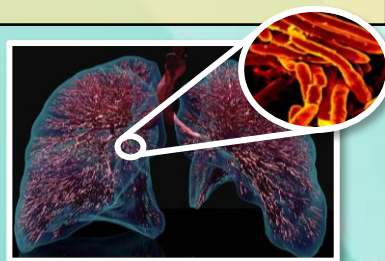
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Introduction

Immigrants from tuberculosis (TB) endemic countries hold significant incident for TB cases in Malaysia. Duration of residence in the host country is one of the factors influencing the risk of TB infection or TB reactivation among immigrants.



Method

Data were retrieved from Tuberculosis Information System (TBIS) from 2013-2018. Only new positive TB cases were selected in this study. The duration of residence was categorized into three; less than a year, 1-10 years and more than 10 years. A chi-square test was performed to search for an association between duration of residence and TB diagnosis using SPSS Version 21.

Results

There was a total of 3838 new positive cases of TB among immigrants, of whom the majority were males (64%, n=2475), with mean age of 32.94 ± 11.66 and mainly from Indonesia (45.1%, n=1731) followed by Myanmar (19.6%, n=751) and Nepal (8.9%, n=340). Most cases were detected during immigrants' duration of residence of 1-10 years (64.3%, n= 2466) followed by less than a year (24.8%, n= 953) and more than 10 years (10.9%, n=419). A chi-square test of independence showed that there was a significant association between duration of residence and TB diagnosis among immigrants in Malaysia, ($\chi^2 = 18.4$, $p < 0.01$).



Conclusion

Immigrants may be exposed to a wide range of risk to get TB infection or reactivation of TB during the period of residence. TST and IGRA are always recommended to increase the chances for TB detection, especially in latent TB infection among immigrants.

