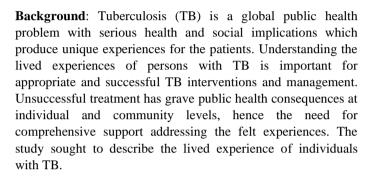


Volu 2, Issue 5

I lost close friends when they realized I had TB" – the lived experiences of respondents with TB in Nairobi City County, Kenya

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Abstract



Methods: Qualitative study using 40 narratives fromrespondents with TB and key informant interviews from 4 TB health care providers in two health facilities in Nairobi City County using an interpretive phenomenology. Between February and March 2016, the 40 respondents were interviewed twice, first at the healthcare facility with a follow-up interview and observation at their homes. The respondents were aged 18-49 years. Content and thematic analysis was used to analyze the qualitative data.

Results: Socioeconomic, structural and medication related factors shape the experiences of respondents with TB. Social factors such as stigma and lack of family and other social support characterize experiences of respondents with TB. TB treatment challenges such as side effects and financial constraints also shape the experiences of the patients. Although respondents reported good provider-client relationship, theyhave to deal with long treatment regimens and long queues when seeking treatment services in the health facilities.

Conclusions: TB management programs should account for factors that influence the lived experience of patients to facilitate effective treatment. Many of these factors constitute barriers to effective treatment and management. Facilitating



Social support structures to address stigma and promote adherence is important from a public health perspective. Strengthening health systems for efficient service delivery is imperative for not only general client satisfaction but also an incentive to retain patients in treatment course.



Biography

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2nd World Congress on Advancements in Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Webinar – July 02-03, 2020

Abstract Citation:

Alex M. GateriI lost close friends when they realized I had TB" – The lived experiences of respondents with TB in Nairobi City County, Kenya, Tuberculosis 2020, 2nd World Congress on Advancements in Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Webinar – July 02-03, 2020