THESIS ABSTRACT

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Title: Psychiatric morbidity in people with tuberculosis: a cross sectional study
Period of study: January 2016 to June 2016
Institution: Government Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai.

Background: Tuberculosis ranks alongside Human Immunodeficiency Virus as a leading cause of death worldwide. Psychiatric disorders in chronic medical illnesses have been found to be associated with poor compliance in previous studies. Poor compliance in tuberculosis can have drastic consequences including emergence of drug resistance. In this study, we have attempted to study the prevalence of psychiatric disorders in tuberculosis at a tertiary care centre in Chennai.

Methods: Ours is a cross sectional study conducted at the Department of Thoracic Medicine in Government Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai. A total of 106 patients were interviewed and examined.

Results: We observed that 61.32% of the patients had at least one psychiatric illness. When alcohol and substance use disorders were included, the prevalence was 84.90%. About 62.6% had depressive disorder. Anxiety disorders were found in 23.5%, alcohol dependence syndrome in 59.43%, and nicotine dependence syndrome in 40.59%. We also found significant relationships between the following: male gender and presence of psychiatric illnesses, joint family and presence of psychiatric illnesses, dyspnoea grade 3 or more and presence of psychiatric illnesses, AUDIT score of 8 or more and presence of psychiatric illnesses, and, dyspnoea grade 3 or more and severity of depression.

Conclusion: Effective identification and management of the highly prevalent psychiatric illnesses and substance use disorders can help improve the tuberculosis services.

Keywords: Tuberculosis, psychiatric morbidity, depression.