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Development of updated guidance for TB treatment partners in Malampa Province.

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Abstract

Background: Since the ministry of health introduced the community DOTS in Vanuatu, a high number of deaths related to TB are still recorded in Malampa province. However, TB is treatable and exploring the treatment outcomes and the cause of deaths between 2015 and 2021 would help to address this important public health issue, for the health benefits of people in Malampa as a whole.

Methods: The data were collected from the Malampa updated TB registry book, from 2015 to 2021. A line list was created to enter different variables, such as ID number of patients, age, sex, address, positive or negative TB from microscopic smear results, extra-pulmonary TB, year of treatment, the treatment outcome and the remarks. The Data cleaning was conducted before analysis using the Excel.

Results: Fifty of TB cases (all type) were recorded from 2015 to 2021. Most cases were from Malekula were 94%, 6% from Ambrym and no cases from Paama island. Males (56%) were more affected than the females were (46%). The age group of over 50 years-old (52%), were more affected than below 50 years-old were (48%). There were 28% of smear positive cases, 28% were smear negative cases, and 44% of extra-pulmonary cases. In overall, the treatment outcomes were: 24% cured, 46% were completed well the treatment, 28% died and 2% defaulted. Among the smear positive patients, only 24% were cured and 4% died with other contributing health conditions. Among the extra-pulmonary and smear negative cases there were 22% deaths, 2% defaulters and only 50% who completed their treatment successfully.

Discussion: In overall the number of deaths and defaulters show poor of compliance and adherence to treatment. In order to improve the treatment outcome, we propose to develop a new guidance for treatment of partners which can be used to strengthen community DOTS.