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# Factors influencing patient delay among pulmonary tuberculosis patients: a systematic literature review

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## Background:

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex*. Although there are many awareness-raising and prevention campaigns around the world, it remains a major global health problem. It has been long recognised that delayed presentation, diagnosis and treatment leads to increased levels transmission and mortality.

## Aim

To explore factors which may influence pulmonary TB patients delaying initial TB presentation and treatment.

## Search strategy

- An integrative review
- Search terms: tuberculosis, delay, factor, and interval
- Databases: CINAHL, Academic Search Premier, and Medline
- Date limits: 2000 – 2018
- PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram was followed:
  - 11 qualitative studies included
  - 194 quantitative studies included
  - 2 mixed methods studies included

## Methods

Papers were critically appraised using;

- The CASP critical appraisal tools: Cohort study, Case-control study, Systematic review study, Qualitative study
- The cross-sectional study appraisal tool (Greenhalgh, 2014): Cross-sectional study
- The mixed methods appraisal tool (MMAT): Mixed methods study

## Results

### Sociodemographic-economic

- Gender
- Age
- Education
- Occupation
- Income
- History of being prisoner

### Health behaviour

- Alcohol use
- Cigarette use
- Drug use

### Knowledge and attitude

- TB knowledge
- TB recognition
- TB stigmatisation

### Family and social

- Number of family members
- Social support

### Health status

- Chronic disease

### Clinical of TB symptoms

- Symptom type

### Accessibility and availability to TB services

- Travelling distance
- Travelling time
- Mode of transportation

### Satisfaction with health care services

- Health insurance
- Expenses for treatment

### Health seeking behaviour

- Self-treatment
- Type of the first health care facility
- Reason for consultation
- Number of visit

**Patient delay**

## Conclusions

The literature review pointed out the essentials for further study of how these factors may influence patients in delaying in treatment which has informed the design of my PhD study. Health policymakers and health providers should consider these findings when developing policies to improve health service system especially TB screening system.

## Reference

Greenhalgh, T. (2014) Chichester, West Sussex: John Wiley & Sons Inc.

