



Tuberculosis Treatment Outcomes and Determinants among Patients Treated in Hospitals in Imo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Introduction: Tuberculosis is a highly feared disease, known for centuries to affect, debilitate, impoverish large sections of the population and continues to ravage the world and especially the developing world. TB is curable and its effective treatment has shown a significant effect on the control of the disease. **Methodology:** This was a retrospective hospital based study carried out on records of 1025 TB cases, treated from 2009-2012 cohorts. A structured proforma was used to collect information from the TB registers, individual cards and folder records of the patients. Data were analyzed using a software package, EPI INFO version 7.1.3. Frequencies tables and summary indices were generated and chi-square was used to test association between variables where appropriate. P-value of ≤ 0.05 was considered significant. **Results:** Most of the cases reviewed had pulmonary tuberculosis. 96.7% and majority (86.3%) of them had sputum smear positive results at diagnosis. Majority, 79.7% of the patients were new cases and the treatment outcome showed a total success rate of 81.4%, (cured, 46.3% and completed treatment, 35.1%), default, (9.8%), died (6.5%) and failed treatment (1.5%). Factors found to significantly affect treatment outcome in this study were; age, gender, educational status, religion, living with someone, treatment regimen, HIV status of patients and type of patient at presentation/diagnostic criteria, $p < 0.05$. **Conclusion:** The success rate recorded in this study was below the set target by WHO, thus there was a need to put in place appropriate measures to improve the outcome of TB treatment in Imo State, Nigeria.

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Keywords

Tuberculosis, Treatment Outcome, Patients, Hospital, Imo State

Subject Areas: Epidemiology

1. Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a curable airborne infectious disease caused by a Mycobacterium Tuberculosis [1] [2]. It is a major public health problem throughout the world [3]. The disease primarily affects the lungs (Pulmonary TB) in greater than 80% of cases but can affect other parts of the body (Extra-pulmonary TB) in less than 20% of cases, involving the kidneys, lymph nodes, spinal cord, the abdomen, skeletal system, pericardium, etc. [4] [5]. Africa and the entire world are facing the worst tuberculosis epidemic since the advent of the antibiotic era due to HIV pandemic [6]. Tuberculosis is a highly feared disease, known for centuries to affect, debilitate, impoverish large sections of the populations and continues to ravage the world and especially the developing world [7]. The disease is today one of the biggest infectious killers among young people and adults. Previously TB was the second leading cause of death annually from an infectious disease worldwide after HIV [8], but this trend has reversed since 2014, as TB now ranks alongside HIV as a leading cause of death worldwide [9] [10]. In 2014, 1.5 million people died of TB, of these 0.4 million people were HIV positive. Also in 2014, 1.2 million people died of HIV and this included the 0.4 million TB deaths among HIV positive people [9] [10]. Over 95% of TB deaths occur in low and middle in some countries, and it's among the top 5 causes of death in women aged 15 to 44 years leading to a total of 480,000 deaths in women and 140,000 deaths in children [10] [11].

Globally in 2014 alone, there were an estimated 9.6 million incident cases of TB; 5.4 million among men, 3.0 million among women and 1.0 million among children. Also an estimated 480,000 people developed multi-drug-resistant TB (MDRTB). The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target of halting and reversing the TB epidemic has been met. TB incident has fallen by an average of 1.5% per year since 2000 and the death also rate dropped by 47% between 1990 and 2015. An estimated 43 million lives were saved through TB diagnosis and treatment between 2000 and 2014 [9]-[11]. The WHO End TB strategy, adopted by World Health Assembly in May 2014, is a blue print for countries to end the TB Epidemic by driving down TB deaths, incidence, and eliminating catastrophic costs [11]. The largest number of new TB cases occurred in the South Eastern Asia and Western Pacific Regions, accounting for 58% of new cases globally. However, Africa carried the most severe burden, with 281 cases per 100,000 populations in 2014 (compared with a global average of 133) [11]. Nigeria is ranked fourth among the 22 countries with the highest TB burden globally. According to 2014 global TB report, 570,000 new cases (323 per 100,000) occur in Nigeria annually. 590,000 prevalent cases were in the country and about 170,000 cases died the same year [10] [11]. Yet Nigeria did not meet the target assessment by WHO which was set from 1990-2015, which included reversal to falling incidence rate, 50% reduction of prevalence of TB and mortality rate [10].

When individuals with infectious tuberculosis cough, sneeze, talk or spit, they expel TB bacilli into the air. TB is an airborne disease *i.e.* transmitted through the air by inhaling air contaminated with TB bacilli. Transmission is more intense in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces with little ambient sunlight as they increase the likelihood of inhalation of infectious TB bacilli present in the air. If not treated, a person with active pulmonary TB disease will infect, on average, between 10 and 20 people every year. Persons infected by *M. tuberculosis* but who have no symptoms of TB disease have what is known as latent TB infection. After infection, TB bacilli can lie dormant in the body for many years. If the immune system is compromised as in the case of HIV infection, malnutrition or other conditions the TB bacilli can cause active disease. Many factors influence the progression from infection to disease. The most important is HIV infection. Other factors include age, diabetes and cancer [5] [6]. Diagnosis of TB starts with early identification of a TB case and prompt initiation of treatment. This is important for TB control and reducing TB-related mortality, particularly in TB/HIV co-infected patients and other high risk groups. Diagnosis of tuberculosis depends on the identification of the tubercle bacilli in a clinical specimen *OR* a strong suspicion of TB based on sound clinical judgment. The most common symptom of pulmonary TB is productive cough for 2 weeks or more, which may be accompanied by other respiratory symptoms

like: shortness of breath, chest pain, coughing up blood (haemoptysis). There may be other constitutional symptoms such as; loss of appetite, fever, weight loss, night sweats, tiredness [5] [6] [12] [13].

Concerning current TB diagnosis, WHO has recently issued policy recommendations on the use of the urine lateral flow lipoarabinomannan (LF-LAM) assay (AlereDetermine™ TB LAM Ag test) [14] [15]. The test is not recommended for TB screening or diagnosis of TB in most population groups. However, it is recommended to help with the diagnosis of TB in two population groups: HIV-positive people who are inpatient with signs or symptoms of TB and who have a CD4 cell count less than or equal to 100 cells/ μ L, and HIV-positive people who are “seriously ill” (both inpatients and outpatients) with danger signs, regardless of CD4 count or if the CD4 count is unknown. The use of the rapid molecular test Xpert MTB/RIF continues to expand in line with WHO recommendations for its use since December 2010. By the end of 2014, 69% of countries reported that national policy by the end of 2014 indicated the use of Xpert MTB/RIF as the initial diagnostic test for people at risk of drug-resistant TB, and 60% reported that national policy indicated its use as the initial diagnostic test for people living with HIV. In 116 of the 145 countries eligible for concessional pricing that have purchased the technology, a total of 3 763 GeneXpert machines had been procured for use in the public sector by the end of 2014. In 2014 alone, 4.8 million Xpert MTB/RIF test cartridges were procured, up from 550,000 in 2011.

Effective TB treatment has been shown to have a significant effect on the control of TB. Completion of treatment of active cases is therefore the most important priority of TB programs [12]. Effective treatment is achieved through Directly Observed Therapy-Short course (DOTS), a strategy developed by WHO in the 1990’s with main drugs for TB treatment comprising rifampicin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide. Since the launch of DOTS, a total of 56 million people had been treated for TB between 1995 and 2012 [13]. In Nigeria as at the end of 2013, there were over 5000 TB service points and 1314 microscopic centers distributed across the entire country. Equally there are various capacities for diagnosis and treatment of multidrug resistance tuberculosis with two national and 6 zonal reference laboratories [14]. WHO reported that infection with HIV is the main reason for failure to meet Tuberculosis control targets in regions with high HIV prevalence [15]. Foremost challenges in TB treatment are; non-adherence to treatment, treatment default, and the emergence of resistance to drugs and particularly to multidrug resistant tuberculosis. These pose obstacles to effective TB control at both national and global levels. Resistance arises at various levels in the management of the patient, ranging from poor compliance, inadequate supervision, inadequate dosing, drug combinations, duration of treatment and poor staffing [16].

Treatment outcome of TB varies greatly even within close localities or treatment facilities. In Nigeria, the overall treatment success rate was 79% in 2002, this increased to 85% in 2003 and then decreased to 83% in 2009. The default rate remained as high as 11% in the seven year period, while the death rate was as high as 6.7% [17] [18]. In a study in a tertiary hospital in Nnewi, Nigeria, 61.3% of the TB patients had successful treatment, 14.6% defaulted while 16.2% died [19]. In another study in private and public hospitals in Nnewi, Nigeria, the success rate was 57.3%, default rate was 28.2% while 4.1% of the TB patients’ died [20]. In Ilorin, a north central State of Nigeria, a 43.7% cure rate and 44.2% default rates were found over a 9 year review of records of TB cases [21]. A similar study in Ile-Ife, a south-western town in Nigeria, result showed that 73% of patients completed treatment while 27% defaulted at the some point [22]. In Ibadan, Nigeria 76.6% of the TB patients had their disease cured, 8.6% defaulted and 6.6% died [16]. In studies done in other countries of the world, various success rates were reported, it was 82.7% in a study from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [23], 66% in a study conducted in Thailand [24], 74.4% reported from Limpopo south province Africa [25], 83.4% reported in a teaching hospital in South India [26] and 92.6% reported from a single center experience in Turkey [27]. Several factors have been reported in previous studies to influence the treatment outcome of tuberculosis. Socio demographic factors reported in previous studies were age of patients [27]-[32], sex of patients [17] [23] [28] [29] [32]-[37], educational/literacy status of patients [7] [27] [38], marital status [39], residence of patients [39]-[42], and poor knowledge of Tuberculosis [17] [40]. Clinical factors found to influence outcome of TB treatment in most reviewed studies were; diagnostic category [25] [27] [28] [43], treatment category/drug regimen [7] [27] [28] [40] [42] [43], presence of co-morbidities [28], hospitalization [28], sputum smear positivity at 3 months of treatment [28] [37], pre-treatment sputum result status [32] [42] [43], delay in treatment [42], HIV status of TB patients [19] [39] [44]-[46], bilateral radiologic lesions and cavities [28] [43]. Other factors reported were those related to type of health facility and house patient lived in [25] [39]. Based on the fact that TB has a high mortality rate, despite effective cure, there is an urgent need to closely monitor treatment as outlined by the DOTS strategy. Thus the aim of this study is to access the pattern of TB treatment outcome and factors influencing outcome among TB patients that received care in selected hospitals in Imo state, Nigeria.

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Area and Population

This study was conducted in Imo State, South east Nigeria. Imo state is one of the 36 states in Nigeria and comprised 3 senatorial zones and 27 Local Government Areas with its capital situated at Owerri. It has an estimated population of about 4.8 million and a population density that varies from 230 - 1400 people per sq. /km. The main occupation of the inhabitants is farming, trading. Majority of them were of Igbo extraction and most of them were Christians of different denominations. There are several Hospitals in the state ranging from tertiary to secondary to Primary Health Centers but this study was carried out in the three hospitals in the state namely; Imo State University Teaching Hospital, Orlu (IMSUTH), State Specialist Hospital Umuguma, Owerri, and Holy Rosary Hospital, Emekuku. All the three hospitals provide free TB and HIV services through the help of the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Program (NTBLCP) and other concerned Non-government organizations in charge TB and HIV care in the state. Study population comprised TB cases in the selected hospitals who received treatment within the four year study period (2009-2012 cohorts).

2.2. Study Design

This study was a retrospective hospital based study of the outcome and determinants of TB treatment among patients that assessed care in three selected hospital in Imo state, Nigeria, within a 4 year period, (January 2009-December 2012).

2.3. Selection Criteria

We included all the patients with TB infection that assessed care in the chest clinics of the selected hospitals within the study period. Any TB case that did not have contact with chest clinics of the selected hospitals was not enrolled.

2.4. Sample Size Determination and Sampling Technique

Using the Kish formula ($n = Z^2pq/d^2$) [47] for determining adequate sample size and further correcting for population less than 10,000, using $n_1 = N/1 + (N/n_1)$, a total of 1025 TB patients were studied.

Where n_1 = corrected minimum sample size required, Z = standard normal deviate set at 1.96, p = proportion of TB patients in previous study with successful treatment outcome (61.3%) [19], d = level of precision set at 0.05, $q = 1 - p$, N = estimate total number of TB cases in the state. The hospitals that were studied was purposely selected based on the patient load, availability of free TB and HIV services, presence of a chest clinic and availability of manpower for the clinics. Nevertheless total sampling was done, thus we studied all the 1025 TB patients that presented at the chest clinics of the hospitals within the study period whose documentations were complete.

2.5. Data Collection

Data on patients were collected using structured proforma. Data information was retrieved using TB case registers, personal folders and treatment cards of the patients. The proforma comprised three sections; section A: comprised information on sociodemographic characteristics, sections B: comprised information of clinical manifestations and laboratory test done while section c: comprised information on diagnosis, treatment received, and outcome of treatment. A diagnosis of tuberculosis was made either alone or by using a combination of the following; presence of symptoms suggestive of TB, abnormal chest radiograph, identification of acid-fast bacilli in sputum, gastric or body fluid, positive Mantoux test >5 mm diameter and histology where necessary. Gene Xpert machine was only supplied to the institutions in 2013 and so was not used in the diagnosis of cases studied. Also as at the time of study, TB was classified as category I treatment (comprising rifampicin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide) and category II (comprising streptomycin injection, rifampicin, isoniazid, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide) in combined or loose forms in accordance with WHO treatment recommendations. The standard anti-TB regimen adopted in the state hospitals is the DOTS regimen, which is used by the country's NTBLCP and recommended by WHO and International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD) [14].

2.6. Data Analysis

The structured proforma was coded before entering the data into the computer and all the data were organized and analyzed by the researchers using a computer software, (EPI-INFO, version 7:1.3). Descriptive statistics were presented as frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation. For relationship of variables, chi-square was used and the p-value was set at 0.05 significant level.

2.7. Ethnical Approval

Approval was gotten from the Ethics and Research committee of the Department of Community Medicine Imo State University, Owerri and the management of the hospitals before proceeding for the study. Also oral permissions were gotten from the heads of the chest clinics and records departments of the hospitals.

3. Result

The mean age of the patients studied was 39.8 ± 14.9 years, with highest frequency occurring among the 31 - 45 years age bracket, (44.7%), while the least frequency was among the 0-15years age bracket, (3.3%). There were more males, (53.6%) than females, (46.4%), with majority of them being currently married, (60.8%) had secondary education, (61.4%) and were employed, (63.8%). There were more Catholics, (47.3%) than other religious denomination and most of them, (83.4%) reside in the rural areas of the state. A greater proportion of them were living with children less than five years of age, (53.8%) and other adults in their apartments, (79.0%) (Table 1).

Majority of the cases had sputum AAFB positive results, (86.3%) at initial diagnosis with sputum conversion rate of 97.8% and 98.3% at 2 and 5 months of sputum AAFB examinations respectively. At 7 months a sizeable proportion of the TB patient (41.6%) did not do their final sputum AAFB and majority of the TB diagnosis was made with a combination of laboratory results; positive Chest x ray + Sputum AAFB + Tuberculin test, (39.0%) and Chest x-ray and sputum AAFB positive results, (36.4%). Nearly half of the patients (49.9%) were found to be HIV positive with slightly above half, (51.0%) of the HIV positive cases being on Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy (HAART) during TB treatment (Table 2).

The common symptoms at presentation were; cough greater than 2 weeks, (96.7%), night sweats, (85.0%) weight loss, (82.9%) and loss of appetite, (72.2%). Majority of the patients, (68.7%) had contact with someone with history of chronic cough or confirmed TB. Most of the TB patients reviewed had pulmonary TB, (96.7%) and majority of them (79.7%) were new cases though treatment after default (10.2%) was sizable. Most of the patients (85.8%) were treated with category 1 drugs and total success rate was 81.4% (cured, 46.3% and completed treatment, 35.1%) although the default rate (9.8%) was relatively high (Table 3).

Age of the patients were found to significantly influence treatment outcome ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 6.289$, $df = 6$, $p < 0.01$) with highest success rate seen among those, 31-45 years age bracket, (83.2%) and least success rate, among those within 0 - 15 years of age, (76.5%) while default was commoner among the 0-15 age bracket, (14.7%). Sex of patient was significantly associated with treatment outcome of tuberculosis, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 71.301$ $df = 3$, $p < 0.0001$). Females had higher success rate, (92.4%) while males had higher default rate, (16.0%) deaths, (10.4%) and failure rates, (1.8%) respectively. Level of education attained by patient was found to significantly affect the outcome of TB treatment, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 4.364$, $df = 4$, $p < 0.05$). Success rate was highest among those with tertiary education, (88.0%), default rate was higher among those with secondary education, (13.0%), while death rate was higher among those with primary education (14.0%). Religious denomination attended by patients was found to be significantly associated with TB treatment outcome, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 5.69$, $df = 4$, $p < 0.05$). The highest success rate was recorded among those in Pentecostal denomination, (93.6%), while the lowest was recorded among Muslims, (66.7%). Higher default rates, deaths and failure rates were recorded among Catholics, (14.6%), Muslims, (33.3%) and orthodox, (2.4%) denominations respectively. Success rate was higher among the unemployed, (88.1%) than employed, (77.5%) while the default rate, (11.2%) deaths, (9.5%) and failure rates (1.8%) were all higher among the employed patients, this variation in treatment outcome was statistically significant, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 23.764$, $df = 2$, $p < 0.0001$). Also those living with under-five children, (88.9%) had higher success rates than their counter parts living with none, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 4.686$, $df = 3$, $p < 0.05$), this was still the pattern with these living with other adults in their apartments, (83.1%), ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 7.457$, $df = 3$ $p < 0.01$). Default rates were higher in those living without any under-five child, (13.3%), nor adults (15.8%). Marital status and residence of

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of Tuberculosis patients.

Socio-demographic characteristics	Frequency (n = 1025)	Percentage
Age group (yrs)		
0 - 15	34	3.3
16 - 30	233	22.7
31 - 45	458	44.7
46 - 60	177	17.3
>60	123	12.0
Total	1025	100.0
Sex		
Male	549	53.6
Female	476	46.4
Total	1025	100.0
Marital status		
Currently married	623	60.8
Never married	285	27.8
Previously married	117	11.4
Total	1025	100.0
Educational status		
None	37	3.6
Primary	93	9.1
Secondary	629	61.4
Tertiary	266	25.9
Total	1025	100.0
Religion		
Catholic	485	47.3
Orthodox	285	27.8
Pentecostal	249	24.3
Muslim	6	0.6
Total	1025	100.0
Employment status		
Employed	654	63.8
Unemployed	371	36.2
Total	1025	100.0
Residence		
Urban	170	16.6
Rural	855	83.4
Total	1025	100.0
Living with under five children		
Yes	551	53.8
No	471	46.8
Total	1025	100.0
Living with other adults		
Yes	810	79.0
No	215	21.0
Total	1025	100

Table 2. Pattern of sputum AAFB result, other laboratory results and HIV status of patients.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Initial sputum AAFB (n = 1025)		
Positive	885	86.3
Negative	140	13.3
Total	1025	100.0
Sputum AAFB at 2months after treatment (n = 885)		
Positive	17	1.7
Negative	1008	98.3
Total	1025	100.0
Sputum AAFB at 5months after treatment (n = 1025)		
Positive	15	1.5
Negative	983	95.9
Not done	27	2.6
Total	1025	100.0
Sputum AAFB at 7months after treatment (n = 1025)		
Positive	15	1.5
Negative	583	56.9
Not done	427	41.6
Total	1025	100.0
Positive Lab results used for TB diagnosis (n = 1025)		
Chest X-ray only (CXR)	51	5.0
Sputum AAFB only	112	10.9
Tuberculin test only	50	4.9
CXR + ESR	25	2.4
CXR + sputum AAFB + Tuberculin test	400	39.0
CXR + sputum AAFB	373	36.4
CXR + Tuberculin test	14	1.4
Total	1025	100
HIV status of TB patients (n = 1025)		
Positive	511	49.9
Negative	401	39.1
Unknown	113	11.0
Total	1025	100.0
HIV positive on HAART (n = 511)		
Yes	261	51.0
No	250	49.0
Total	511	100.0

Table 3. Pattern of clinical manifestations and treatment outcome of TB patients.

Variable	Frequency (n = 1025)	Percentage
Common clinical presentations**		
Cough	991	96.7
Night sweats	871	85.0
Weight loss	850	82.9
Anorexia	740	72.2
Fatigue	661	64.5
Chest pain	606	59.1
Hemoptysis	551	53.8
Low grade fever	450	43.9
History of contact with someone having chronic cough/TB		
Yes	704	68.7
No	321	31.3
Total	1025	100.0
Type of TB		
Pulmonary TB	994	97.0
Extra pulmonary TB	31	3.0
Total	1025	100.0
Type of patient at diagnosis		
New	817	79.7
Treatment after default/treatment after failure (TAF)	105	10.2
Relapse	37	3.6
Transferred in	55	5.4
Others	11	1.1
Total	1025	100.0
Treatment category		
Category 1	879	85.8
Category 11	146	14.2
Total	1025	100.0
Treatment outcome		
Cured	475	46.3
Completed treatment	359	35.0
Defaulted	100	9.8
Died	67	6.5
Failed treatment	15	1.5
Transferred out	9	0.9
Total	1025	100.0

** = Multiple response.

patients had no significant associations with TB treatment outcome, $p > 0.05$ even though slight differences exist (**Table 4**).

Treatment category of TB patients was found to be significantly associated with treatment outcomes, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 194.617$, $df = 3$, $p < 0.0001$) with those that had category I treatment regimen having a higher success rates (88.2%) than their counterparts that had category II (40.4%), while default rates, (21.9%) deaths, (32.2%) and failure rates, (5.5%) were higher among those that had category II regimens. Those with HIV negative or unknown results had 100% success rates while those with HIV positive results had lower success rate, (62.6%). All other poor treatment outcomes occurred among the HIV positive clients. This finding was statistically significant, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 233.662$, $df = 1$, F.E. $p < 0.0001$). There was no statistically significant difference in treatment outcome of TB between those that were on antiretroviral (ART) drugs (ART) and those that were not on drugs, ($p > 0.05$), even though more deaths occurred among those that were not on drugs, (22.0%) while more defaults cases were seen among those that were on ART, (29.9%). Type of patient at presentation was found to significantly influence the outcome of TB treatment, ($X^2_{\text{trend}} = 68.854$, $df = 6$, $p < 0.0001$), with new cases at presentation having the highest success rate (85.8%) and relapse having the least success rate (29.8%) while more deaths, (37.8%) and failure rates, (21.6%) were recorded among the relapse cases (**Table 5**).

4. Discussion

The mean age of the patients was 39.8 ± 14.9 years with majority of them (84.7%) being within the economically productive age group, 15 - 60 years. Several studies have reported similar pattern especially in developing countries [7] [17] [19] [20] [22] [48] [49]. It has been postulated that due to their age factor and family economy depending on them, they involve themselves in earning and get exposed to other cases in the community [26]. This pattern was contrary to what was reported in developed countries where finding suggest the elderly group to be two to four time more prevalent [50]. The burden of TB in this study was more among males (53.6%), than the females (46.4%). Similar pattern have been reported in several studies [7] [17] [19]-[21] [26] [32] [36] [49] [51]. WHO global TB report 2015, showed that male to female ration of notified cases across all age groups was 1.7, globally ranging from 1.0 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to 2.1 in the West Pacific Region [9]. This difference could likely be associated to risk of exposure to the bacilli which is, mostly airborne. Nevertheless Getahun *et al.*, (2013) reported higher TB Burden among females than males in Addis Ababa Ethiopia [23].

Majority of the patients reviewed (96.7%) had pulmonary TB with most of them (79.7%) being new cases. This report was in line with findings from some of the reviewed works [5] [6] [19] [29] [52]. It has been globally reported that TB occurs mostly as pulmonary types in greater than 80% of all cases [5] [6]. Yet some other studies reported lower proportions of pulmonary TB when compared to ours; 64.6% in India by Chennaveerappa *et al.*, [26] and 59.5% by Getahun *et al.*, in Ethiopia. Also majority of the all TB cases (86.3%) were sputum AAFB positive at initial sputum test done, with sputum conversion rates of 97.8% and 98.3% respectively at the 2nd and 5th months of sputum examination. High sputum smear positive results as seen in our study have been reported in previous studies [44] [51]. However our finding of high smear positive cases was higher than what was reported in Nnewi, Eastern Nigeria by Adinma *et al.*, (44.1%), Oshogbo, South west Nigeria by Egbewale *et al.*, (67.0%) [52] and even a much lower rate (0.8%) has been reported in a study from Ethiopia [23]. Also to note is that smear positive sero-conversion rates as high as what was seen in our study has been reported elsewhere [52]. The TB/HIV confection found in this study was 49.9% with slightly above half of the HIV positive TB cases (51.0%) being on antiretroviral drugs. This finding was higher than the national prevalence of HIV among TB patients which increased from 2.2% in 1991 to 19.1% in 2001 and 25% in 2010 [18]. Also to note is that only 33% of TB/HIV co-infected cases in Nigeria were on antiretroviral therapy when compared to higher proportion of 50.1% found in our study [18]. The co-infection rates vary greatly among the reviewed works, while some were reporting lower figures [6] [19] [39], others reported figures within the same limits as ours or even higher [51] [53] [54]. HIV pandemic has fueled an unprecedented increase in TB primarily because of its effect in the immune system of infected individuals.

The treatment outcomes of TB treatment in this study showed a total success rate of 81.4% (cure, 46.3% and completed treatment, 35.1%), default rate, (9.8%), died, (6.5%), failed, (1.5%) and transferred out (0.9%). This treatment success recorded in this study was slightly lower than 86% reported both nationally and globally among the 2013 TB treatment cohort [9]. It was also lower than figures reported from studies in Ekiti state Nigeria, (93.0%) [55], Turkey (94.7%) [43], India, (84.6%) [7] and also below the national recommended target of

Table 4. Association between socio-demographic characteristics of patients and treatment outcome of tuberculosis.

Variable	Treatment outcome of tuberculosis					Statistics (χ^2)/p-value
	Successful Rx (%)	Uncertain Outcome (%)	Died (%)	Failed Rx (%)	Total (%)	
Age group (yrs)						
0 - 15	26 (76.5)	5 (14.7)	3 (8.8)	0 (0.0)	34 (100)	
16 - 30	186 (79.8)	32 (13.8)	14 (6.0)	1 (1.4)	233 (100)	6.289
31 - 45	381 (83.2)	51 (11.1)	24 (5.2)	2 (0.5)	458 (100)	df = 6
46 - 60	146 (82.5)	11 (6.2)	13 (7.3)	7 (4.0)	177 (100)	$p = 0.012^*$
>60	95 (77.2)	10 (8.1)	13 (10.6)	5 (4.1)	123 (100)	
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	
Sex						
Male	394 (71.8)	88 (16.0)	57 (10.4)	10 (1.8)	549 (100)	71.301
Female	440 (92.4)	21 (4.4)	10 (2.1)	5 (1.1)	476 (100)	df = 3
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	$p = 0.000^*$
Marital status						
Currently married	504 (81.0)	65 (10.4)	40 (6.4)	14 (2.2)	623 (100)	1.170
Never married	228 (80.0)	33 (11.6)	23 (8.1)	1 (0.3)	285 (100)	df = 4
Previously married	102 (87.2)	11 (9.4)	4 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	117 (100)	$p = 0.281$
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	
Educational status						
None	32 (86.5)	4 (10.8)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	37 (100)	4.364
Primary	71 (76.3)	8 (8.6)	13 (14.0)	1 (1.1)	93 (100)	df = 4
Secondary	497 (79.0)	82 (13.0)	45 (7.2)	5 (0.8)	629 (100)	$p = 0.037^*$
Tertiary	234 (88.0)	15 (5.6)	8 (3.0)	9 (3.4)	266 (100)	
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	
Religion						
Catholic	374 (77.2)	71 (14.6)	35 (7.2)	5 (1.0)	485 (100)	5.069
Orthodox	233 (81.8)	24 (8.4)	21 (7.4)	7 (2.4)	285 (100)	df = 4
Pentecostal	223 (93.6)	14 (5.6)	9 (3.6)	3 (1.2)	249 (100)	$p = 0.024^*$
Muslim	4 (66.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (33.3)	0 (0.0)	6 (100)	
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	
Employment status						
Employed	507 (77.5)	73 (11.2)	62 (9.5)	12 (1.8)	654 (100)	23.764
Not employed	327 (88.1)	36 (9.7)	5 (1.4)	3 (0.8)	371 (100)	df = 2
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	$p = 0.000^*$
Residence						
Urban	138 (81.2)	26 (15.2)	3 (1.8)	3 (1.8)	170 (100)	0.001

Continued

Rural	696 (81.5)	83 (9.7)	64 (7.4)	12 (1.4)	855 (100)	df = 2
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	$p = 0.980$
Living with children under 5 years of age						
Yes	462 (83.9)	46 (8.3)	37 (6.7)	6 (1.1)	551 (100)	4.686
No	372 (78.5)	63 (13.3)	30 (6.3)	9 (1.9)	474 (100)	df = 3
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	$P = 0.030^*$
Living with adults						
Yes	673 (83.1)	75 (9.3)	53 (6.5)	9 (1.1)	810 (100)	7.457
No	161 (74.9)	34 (15.8)	14 (6.5)	6 (2.8)	215 (100)	df = 3
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	$p = 0.006^*$

Successful Rx = cured and completed treatment, uncertain outcome = defaulted and transferred out, * = significant

Table 5. Association between clinical Status of patient and treatment outcome of tuberculosis.

Variable	Treatment outcome of tuberculosis					Statistics (χ^2)/p-value
	Successful Rx (%)	Uncertain Outcome (%)	Died (%)	Failed Rx (%)	Total (%)	
Treatment category						
Category 1	775 (88.2)	77 (8.7)	20 (2.3)	7 (0.8)	879 (100)	194.617
Category 11	59 (40.4)	32 (21.9)	47 (32.2)	8 (5.5)	146 (100)	df = 3
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	$p = 0.000^*$
HIV status of patient						
Positive	320 (62.6)	109 (21.3)	67 (100)	15 (3.0)	511 (100)	233.662
Negative	401 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	401 (100)	df = 1
Not done	113 (100)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	113 (100)	F = 0.000*
Total	832 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (1.5)	1025 (100)	
HIV positive on drugs (n = 511)						
Yes	165 (63.2)	78 (29.9)	12 (4.6)	6 (2.3)	261 (100)	1.205
No	155 (62.0)	31 (12.4)	55 (22.0)	9 (3.6)	250 (100)	df = 3
Total	320 (62.6)	109 (21.3)	67 (13.1)	15 (3.0)	511 (100)	$p = 0.273$
Type of patient at presentation						
New cases	701 (85.8)	94 (11.5)	20 (2.5)	2 (0.2)	817 (100)	68.854
TAD/TAF	68 (64.8)	5 (4.8)	29 (27.6)	4 (3.8)	105 (100)	df = 6
Relapse	11 (29.8)	4 (10.8)	14 (37.8)	8 (21.6)	37 (100)	$p = 0.000^*$
Transfer in/others	55 (83.3)	6 (9.1)	4 (6.1)	1 (1.5)	66 (100)	
Total	834 (81.4)	109 (10.6)	67 (6.5)	15 (6.5)	1025 (100)	

Successful Rx = cured and completed treatment, uncertain outcome = defaulted and transferred out, * = significant, TAD = treatment after default, TAF = treatment after failure.

85% [14]. Nevertheless, the treatment success found in this study was higher than figures reported in studies from, Nnewi, (61.3%) [19] Owo Ondo state, (75.5%) [51] Ibadan (76.6%) [17], Ebonyi state, (65.8%) [40], Abuja, (65.8%) [39] all from Nigeria and in Limpopo South Africa, (74.4%) [25]. Yet our findings compares favorably with the treatment successes reported in some other studies; 82% from a study in Enugu state [49], 80% in another study from Ebonyi state [56], 83.4% in India [26] and 82.7% in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [23]. This variations in treatment success is likely to have been caused by various socio-demographic/economic factors, issues related to drug compliance and monitoring, nutritional status of individuals, the HIV pandemic, and drug susceptibility/resistance among others which varies greatly from place to place. Default rates, death rates, and failure rates of 9.8%, 6.5%, and 1.5% respectively were still within the national range [18]. It was also similar to what was obtained in Enugu state, Nigeria [49] and in a study from India [26]. This high default rate is of great concern due to its public health implication in spreading the disease and in the emergence of resistance strains of the TB organism. The reasons that could be responsible for this lower treatment outcome found in our study could be due to ignorance, poor compliance to drug treatment, long duration of drug intake, distance of home from health facility, improper health education, stigmatization, poor social support, lack of regular availability of drugs and other consumables, lack of political will, and the attitude of the health workers among others as has been reported in other studies [19] [51] [52] [55] [56].

Socio-demographic factors found to be associated significantly with TB treatment outcome were, age of patient, gender, educational status, religious denomination attended, employment status, living with under five children and living with an adult in the household. Other clinical/medical factors associated with TB treatment outcome significantly were; type of treatment category patient was on, HIV status of patient, and type of patient at diagnosis.

Concerning age of patients, lower successful outcomes were recorded in both extremes of age. Also death rates were high in both extremes of age. This pattern has been reported in a study from Turkey [28] which revealed that there was a significant positive trend of increased risk for adverse treatment outcomes with age, with almost two and three fold increase in odds of an adverse treatment outcome among patients aged 51 - 65 years and 65 years respectively. Other studies had shown significant association between death and older age [29]-[31] [43], and extremes of age with lower proportions of treatment success [23] [25]. Yet several other studies showed no association between age and treatment outcome of TB [19] [39] [41] [42] [52]. This association with extremes of age may partly be explained by the effect of co-morbidity confounders common at the extremes of age that are likely to worsen the outcome of TB treatment. This argument was strengthened by the finding in a Turkish study which revealed that co-morbidity was associated with a near doubling of the odds for an adverse TB treatment outcome [28].

Gender showed that females had a higher treatment success (92.4%) than their male counterparts, (71.8%) while males had higher levels of poor treatment outcomes than females. This pattern of lower success rates among males has been supported by several studies, [7] [17] [23] [29] [32]-[34] [37] [43] [57]. Nevertheless one of the studies reported a higher burden among female patients while some others reported no effect of gender on TB treatment outcome [19] [41] [42] [52]. Gender differences in tuberculosis epidemiology may arise either as a consequence of differences in biological functioning or due to differences in the societal roles of men and women. Thus despite facing obstacles such as stigma, negligence, poverty and low detection rate, better results were seen in females globally [7] [9].

Concerning educational status, those with Tertiary education had better success rates (88.0%) than their other counterparts with lower educational status. Sengul *et al.*, reported that high educational status was significantly associated with successful PTB treatment outcome [27]. Also, Kanugo *et al.* (2015) [38] and Sadana *et al.* (2015) [7] both reported that better treatment outcomes were seen among literate patients. Another study in Ibadan Nigeria reported that poor treatment outcome was associated with poor knowledge about TB. [17] Yet in some other studies, educational status of individuals did not play any significant role in TB treatment outcome [28] [39]. Generally, education increase knowledge which if positive will influence attitude and behavior which may help patients to comply with treatment and also practice proper preventive measures which might in turn improve the outcome of treatment.

Religious denomination attended by patients was found to significantly influence the outcome of TB treatment, with those in Pentecostal denominations having the highest success rate (93.6%) while the least was found among the Muslims. This finding was contrary to that reported by Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, (2010) which shows no difference in use between the Hindus, Muslims and Santhals in west Bengal, India. [43] Religious beliefs play vital role in shaping the behavior of its worshippers and so could influence outcome depending on their pattern

of beliefs as pertains to health care seeking practices. Those who were not employed, (88.1%) in our study had a better treatment outcome than their counterparts that were employed, (77.5%). Sengul *et al.*, (2015) [27] reported no association between TB treatment outcomes with occupation. Also Sadana *et al.*, (2015) [7] reported no association between treatment outcome and socio economic status of TB patients. Most of those classified as unemployed in this study which were mainly students and housewives may have come from rich and educated families. Also because they're not working may have given them time to comply to the drug regimens thereby having better successful rates than their counterparts who may be busier and may forget to take their drugs. This could also be partly explained by the fact that most of them are dependents and could be easily be monitored by family members in taking their drugs thereby improving compliance and treatment success.

Those living with under-fives, (83.9%) and those living with other adults, (83.1%) in their household were more likely to have better treatment successes than their counterparts living alone. Sengul *et al.*, [27] (2015) found no association between family size and successful treatment outcome of TB. Also Sadana *et al.*, [7] (2015) reported no association between type of family and outcome of TB treatment. This positive finding in our study could be associated with high emphasis placed on informing and screening close contacts of PTB sputum positive patients especially the under-five children in our DOTS clinics. Also it is compulsory in our setting to bring close persons who could help them take their drugs and can also be contacted when need arises. Because of the influence of these close persons to them and the risk of infecting others, they are likely to comply in properly taking their drugs which will likely improve treatment outcome.

Patients on category I drug treatment had a higher treatment success, (88.2%) than their counterparts on category II treatment regimen, (40.4%) with those in category II having higher poor treatment outcome (59.6%). This pattern was consistent with finding reported by Sadana *et al.*, (2015) [7] and Mukhopadhyay *et al.*, 2010 [42]. A study in Limpopo South Africa also reported a strong association between treatment regimen and outcome of TB treatment [25]. Also, some other studies showed a higher treatment outcome in those that had no drug resistant of any form [27] [43]. Patient category or type of patient at presentation was found to significantly affect the outcome of TB treatment with new cases at presentation having the highest success rate, (85.8%) while relapse cases having the least success rate, (29.8%). This pattern of high TB treatment success among new cases has been reported by several studies [25] [27] [28] [43]. Yet some others reported no significant effect on the treatment outcome by both the drug regimen used and the type of patient at diagnosis [19] [23] [41]. This report could likely be due to the fact that most category II patients are re-treatment cases and might have been long on the drugs leading to poor compliance to drugs, development of resistance to drugs and in turn poor treatment outcome.

Those that were HIV negative or with unsure status has a treatment success of 100% when compared to 62.6% among HIV positive cases. Globally treatment success was higher among HIV negatives (88%) than positives (73%) and this was still the pattern in Africa; (84% versus 75%) [9] [10]. This finding of lower success rates among HIV/TB co-infected patients is in tandem with findings in Nnewi, Anambra State [19], and Abuja, Nigeria [39] both conducted among patients in tertiary hospital settings. Nevertheless the success treatment outcome was not affected by the use of antiretroviral among the HIV positives though death rates were drastically reduced among those on ART and transfer out/defaults were more among those not receiving ART drugs. This pattern has been reported in previous studies [19] [41] while some others reported improved outcome with initiation of ART [41] [58]-[60]. HIV pandemic has fueled an unprecedented increase in TB owing to its effects on the immune system of individuals and in combination. This union has a lethal effect on individuals with co-infection. The reported reduction in deaths among TB/HIV co-infected cases on antiretroviral therapy in this study collaborates with WHO report that between 2000 and 2014, TB treatment and antiretroviral therapy saved an additional 18million lives among HIV positives people [9]. This result could have been affected by the fact that only about half of the respondents were on drugs with some of them being transferred out or defaulted as at the time this study was conducted. This is true in that only one third of HIV positive TB cases in Nigeria are assessing ART [41], leaving the rest to be without drugs thereby necessitating a high drop out of TB/HIV cases and possible poor treatment outcome.

Other socio demographic factors that did not significantly affect outcome of TB treatment were; marital status, place of residence. This pattern has been reported in some other studies [7] [17] [19] [42].

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The success rate of 81.4% found in this study was still below the target of 85% rate set by WHO. Both the de-

fault rate and death rate were still relatively high. If this status quo remains, it will be difficult to achieve the national and global target of reducing TB deaths by at least 50%. Most of the associated factors can be modified to improve the status of TB treatment if adequate attention is given by the relevant authorities. There is a need to monitor patients closely for compliance to treatment and efforts should be made to screen patients on time for HIV. Also ART drugs should be made available and initiated on time as this will help to reduce adverse treatment outcomes. Continuous health education to the populace concerning TB, its treatment and prevention will go a long way to improve outcome of treatment generally, as education is key to positive behavioral and attitudinal change.

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Author's Contribution

All the authors contributed in different sections of this study.

Conflicting Interest

The authors hereby declare that there is no conflicting interest.

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