Integrated TB/HIV Care Under Routine Program Condition - Experience from Hawassa, Ethiopia

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Background

Monitoring and evaluation of TB/HIV care is critical to assess service quality, effectiveness and coverage. Since the inception of TB/HIV collaborative activities in 2005 in Southern Ethiopia, there was no comprehensive evaluation of service provision at a program level. This study aims to assess the implementation of integrated TB/HIV activities in health facilities in Hawassa Town.

Results

TB case finding and management in HIV/AIDS clinics was adequate. 95% and 86% of HIV positive patients were screened for TB at baseline and at last clinical visit respectively. 98%, 93% and 81% of TB/HIV co-infected patients were given anti-TB treatment, Co-trimoxazole and Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) respectively, but only 11% of HIV positive individuals without active TB were treated with Isoniazid. Being on ART was found to be a strong positive predictor of TB case finding (APOR 7.883 (2.998 – 20.731). Significant proportion (94%) of TB patients were tested for HIV and the HIV prevalence was high (17%). However, only 64% and 73% of TB/HIV co-infected patients were provided with ART and Co-trimoxazole respectively, and 22% were not enrolled in HIV care.

Discussion

There was adequate integrated TB/HIV care in HIV clinics. However, provision of Isoniazid was low, indicating a greater emphasis on TB treatment than prevention. There was high HIV case finding among TB patients with inadequate HIV care to TB/HIV co-infected patients. More focus should be given to TB prevention; avail one stop service or improved referral linkages, and wide distribution of HIV/AIDS resources to other HIV entry points such as TB clinics.

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References Available Upon Request