

TB/HIV Coinfection- Challenges and Strategies

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Abstract—TB and HIV are diseases of the underprivileged- overcrowding, malnutrition, poor housing with inadequate sunshine and sanitation. TB is transmitted via airborne droplet nuclei. Untreated TB patients with sputum positive for TB bacilli are greatest threat for transmission of infection in the community. Since they are continually expectorating bacilli which then infect healthy susceptible people. The trigger for progression from TB infection to disease is provided by factors like immunosuppression e.g. HIV. TB and HIV are common in some developing countries of South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa. Both epidemics drive and fuel each other. HIV infection is the most powerful factor to increase risk of TB. This review focuses on epidemiology and public health aspects of TB and HIV infections since these epidemics largely coexist in India.

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