

TUBERCULOSIS AND LUNG DISEASE

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High incidence of tuberculosis in the absence of isoniazid and cotrimoxazole preventive therapy in children living with HIV in northern Ethiopia: Aretrospective follow-up study

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Objective: To identify the incidence of and predictors for tuberculosis in children living with HIV in Northern Ethiopia.

Design: Observational, retrospective follow-up study.

Methods: A total of 645 HIV-infected children were observed between September 2009 and September 2014. Cox regression analysis was used to identify predictors for developing TB.

Results: The incidence rate of tuberculosis was 4.2 per 100 child-years. Incidence of tuberculosis was higher for subjects who were not on cotrimoxazole preventive therapy, were not on isoniazid preventive therapy, had delayed motor development,

had a CD4 cell count below the threshold, had hemoglobin level less than 10 mg/dl and were assessed as World Health Organization (WHO) clinical stage III or IV.

Conclusion: Incidence of TB in children living with HIV was high. This study reaffirmed that isoniazid preventive therapy is one of the best strategy to reduce incidence of TB in children living with HIV. All children living with HIV should be screened for TB but for children with delayed motor development, advanced WHO clinical stage, anemia or immune suppression, intensified screening is highly recommended.

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