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Title: Tuberculosis in health care staff in Romania, 2006-2010

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Body: Introduction: Health care staff represents a well recognized high risk group for TB. Objective: To analyze characteristics of TB cases out of health care staff in Romania during 2006-2010 by demographic, clinical, bacteriological parameters and treatment outcomes. Methods: Retrospective descriptive study of TB cases notified among staff of health care facilities in Romania from 2006 to 2010. Data and information used are from the electronic National TB Register. Results: Total number of TB cases reported in health care workers in Romania from 2006 to 2010 was 843, declining from 224 in 2006 to 139 in 2009 and slightly increasing (to 150) in 2010. Most of them were aged from 25 to 39 years. Conversely to the general population, female gender was predominant (over 70%), as the residence in urban area (over 70% as well). Even the staff in TB network varied between 2006 and 2008 from 12.9% to 7.7% of all medical staff, TB incidence rate in this group was 114.5%000, versus 51.3%000 in other medical staff, in 2010. Pulmonary cases were from 74.4% in 2007 to 85.9% in 2008. New cases and relapses represented over 96% of all cases (96.8% in 2006 and 99.3% in 2010). In the five years have been reported 18 MDR-TB cases - from 6 in 2008 (6.9% of culture positive pulmonary cases) to 3 in 2010 (respectively 3.8%) and none in 2007. Overall success rate was 98.3% in 2007 and 89.3% in 2006. Conclusions: TB incidence rate in health care staff in TB facilities is 2.2 folds higher than that in the personnel in other health care facilities. New pulmonary cases were predominant, with a few MDR-TB cases and a therapeutic success rate over 89%.