

**COMPLIANCE TO TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT AMONG PATIENTS
BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16-55 ATTENDING SIAYA COUNTY REFFERAL
HOSPITAL.**

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ABSTRACT

TB remains one of the biggest problems in public health. The most frequent form of tuberculosis in public health is pulmonary type due to its infectiousness. According to WHO (2008), tuberculosis persists as a global public health problem of a serious magnitude requiring urgent attention. It kills approximately 2million people per year and it's estimated that between 2002 and 2020 approximately 1000million people will die of TB if control is not further strengthened. Non-compliance with treatment is directly related to disease spread and the appearance of multi-resistance bacilli. A cross-sectional descriptive study whose main objective was to determine compliance to TB treatment among patients was conducted in the month of September 2014 to December 2014 at the siaya county referral hospital. The specific objectives of the study were to establish the level of compliance to tuberculosis treatment, to establish the level of knowledge on TB and to establish barriers to compliance to TB treatment. The Fisher et al 1998 formula was used to calculate the desired sample size of 140 respondents. All patients above 18 years and below 55 years diagnosed with TB and those coming for review in TB clinic during the study period will be included. Respondents were selected in a random systematic procedure where the 2nd patient was interviewed. Interviewer schedule was used to collect data. The results were 16% of the study populations are university or college graduate, 41% studied upto secondary education levels, 10% attained only primary education and 33% never went to school, 42% of the study populations were female while 58% were male, 83% said transmission of TB was from person to person through air, 13% said it was through sex and 4% said it was through body contact, 86% said the major symptom of TB was a persistent cough at more than 2 weeks, 6% didn't know while 9% said it was loss of weight, 84% of the respondent believed TB is curable while 16% didn't believe TB is curable, 81% of the respondent complied to TB treatment while 19% had not complied to TB treatment, on barriers 14% said it was due to pill burden and 84% said it was due to the long duration of taking the medication while 2% said it was due to side effect of the medication. Data was coded and entered into a statistical computer package for the social sciences (SPSS) and then was presented in frequency tables, bar charts and pie charts. The study concluded that the level of knowledge on tuberculosis was good since (90%) of the patients were aware on what course tuberculosis (83%) of the patients were aware of how TB is transmitted and finally (86%) of the patients were aware of the major symptoms of tuberculosis. The recommendation included that Utilization of free primary education and adult education programme to uplift the literacy level and stopping up health education promotion in TB control programme using the language and teaching method understandable to the non-educated people so as to uplift their knowledge on TB and hence increase their compliance to TB treatment.

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