

**A STUDY OF NON-COMPLIANCE AS A LIMITING FACTOR TO SUCCESSFUL
TUBERCULOSIS TREATMENT AT LODWAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL.**

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted between 10th– 20th May'2013 in Lodwar District hospital and was aimed to establish determinants associated with non-compliance in TB treatment among TB patients on the basis of the four specific objectives. The data was collected through quota sampling method using prepared questionnaires .A checklist was also used. The data was analyzed using SPSS and represented in tables, pie-charts and bar graphs.

The study covered 139 TB patients admitted in Manyatta, and also those attending treatment from their homes, who were more than 75% of all the respondents from the age of 15 years and above. Also interviewed were four health workers working in the TB clinics/wards.

Among many other findings, TB was found to affect more males than females and all age groups, especially the youth. The study established that more than 50% of respondents are socio-economically poor and have poor knowledge on TB disease and its treatment. The study also revealed that non-compliance was a serious problem in the county as more than 57.9% of the respondents had skipped /stopped treatment which was supposed to be continuous during the treatment period, even though a majority of them were aware of the consequences of stopping treatment. As regards to factors influencing low treatment compliance, the findings showed that, inadequate health education(92.8%),long distances(45.4%) traveled by patients to access TB services ,inadequate supervision and follow up measures, lack of transport means, poor knowledge levels(72%) of TB patients about TB and it's treatment and poverty are responsible for non-compliance.

The study revealed that there were available current strategies in place for management of non-compliance by the clinicians but were not followed up or practiced