

Introduction

Paediatric TB, and even more so Paediatric DR TB is difficult to diagnose and require multiple diagnostic tools to make a diagnosis resulting in high proportion of missing cases amongst this population group. Referral pathways are also quite complex and frequently children are lost while making the diagnostic journey. The project identified Jose Pearson Hospital for programmatic support to increase diagnosis of paediatric DR TB.

Methods and Materials

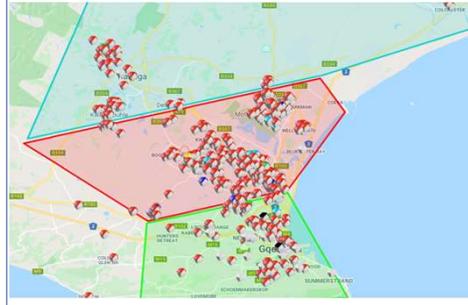
The project conducted a baseline assessment of paediatric DR TB case finding activities in Jose Pearson Hospital, being on the only site providing paediatric DR TB in Nelson Mandela Metro. The district notified 11 patients in 2017, 27 in 2018, and 23 in 2019. There was no prophylaxis being offered prior to project implementation. The project engaged a community-based organisation to conduct contact management in the community based on list of index DR TB patients drawn from patients being managed at the hospital. The project also conducted a needs assessment and procured diagnostic equipment – for gastric lavage, sputum induction, and patient monitoring stands (temp, saturation, and weight). An additional paediatric nurse was also placed at the hospital to assist with anticipated increase in diagnostic services. All under 5 patients screened in the community were all referred to Jose Pearson for evaluation on paediatric clinic days – Tuesdays and Thursdays, with over 5yrs relying on symptom screening.

Results

From June 2020 to May 2021, 148 index cases were drawn with 489 contacts being screened in the community. 260 under 5 patients were evaluated with 25 under 5 being diagnosed and initiated on treatment. 184 over 5-year-olds were evaluated with 10 over 5 diagnosed and on treatment. To date of the 220 eligible 82 contacts have been started on DR TB prophylaxis (15 XDR contacts not eligible).

Results

Picture 1: GIS Map for hotspot at Nelson Mandela Bay Metro



Picture 2 : Transport support service -Tuk Tuk.



Results

Table 1: Number of admissions and prophylaxis at Jose Pearson Hospital through Qinisela Campaign, June 2020 -May 2021

Year	Admission	Prophylaxis
2020	17	34
2021	19	48
Total	36	82

Discussion

Jose Pearson identifies an average of 25 paediatric DRTB cases annually, but the intervention has demonstrated that increased targeted contact management can identify more paediatric patients. There is also an increased uptake of DR TB prophylaxis, and tolerability amongst this population. Several gaps in implementing this projects revealed, unclear and unsustainable referral pathways for paediatrics (evaluation and treatment initiation all being done at Jose Pearson), lack of dedicated training for paediatric DR TB and no standardised system for tracking DR TB prophylaxis.

Conclusions

There is a clear need for increased community screening to identify more paediatric DR TB cases, with contact management being a feasible strategy. Decentralisation of paediatric diagnostics would also fast track finding more paediatric DR TB cases.

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