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Introduction

South Africa remains a high TB burden country with reported treatment success rate among drug-sensitive TB (DS-TB) patients of 81%.

Electronic pill boxes with real time electronic adherence monitoring system could improve medication adherence as demonstrated in other countries.

Aim

We aim to look at the willingness of DS-TB patients to enrol into a trial using digital technologies to support adherence.

Methods

Participants were enrolled into a cluster-randomised trial at treatment initiation.

Adults and children (aged ≥ 2 years) with DS-TB disease, meeting the following criteria were eligible to enrol:

- Initiated on DS-TB treatment within 14 days
- Agree to use the medication monitor
- Able to give informed consent/assent
- Have access to a working mobile phone and can read text messages on the mobile phone
- Intending to remain in study area for 18 months.

This was implemented in 18 clinics across 3 provinces (Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Western Cape).

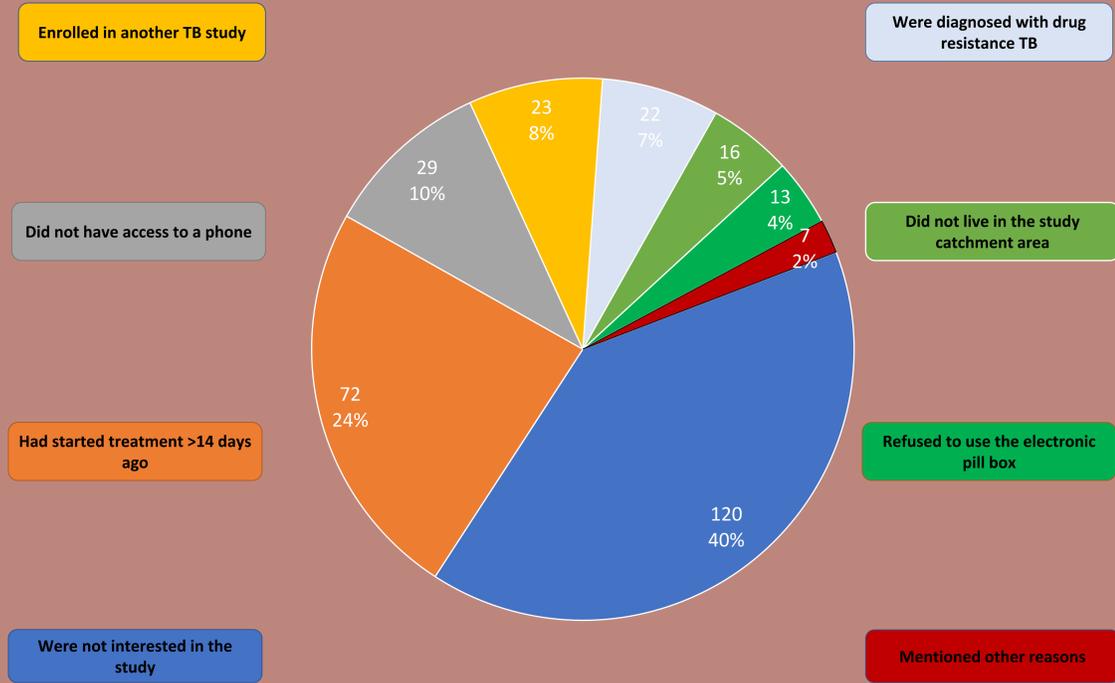
Participants were either assigned to control or intervention arm and were all provided with medication monitor.

Screening data were collected from all the patients invited to participate in the study.

Results

3028 persons were screened, 2726 (90%) participants were enrolled with median age of 36 years (interquartile range: 27-45) and 1694 (62%) were male. A total of 302/3028 (10%) participants were screened out.

Screen out's



Conclusion

The willingness to use a technological adherence support system seemed high in our study. Implementation of the medication monitor was highly accepted to health care providers and patients, and has potential to increase adherence rate.

Acknowledgements

