

ABSTRACT

Healthcare workers are at risk for tuberculosis exposure and infection when they care for patients. Although effective infection-control measures can greatly decrease the risk of nosocomial tuberculosis infection, the risk of tuberculosis exposure and infection among health-care workers will always be present to some extent. Therefore, screening workers for latent tuberculosis infection, using the Mantoux test, remains an integral part of tuberculosis control programs for health-care facilities. Tuberculin skin testing programs serve two important purposes: to monitor tuberculosis acquisition among health-care workers, and to identify workers with latent tuberculosis infection who need treatment. This study was designed to assess the prevalence of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in Fayoum University Teaching Hospital. It aims at determining the occupational risk of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection among a group of 100 healthcare workers. The study showed that 32 (32%) have tuberculin skin test positive, 17 of them had radiological changes, 12 of them presented with increased bronchovascular markings and 5 with bilateral central calcified lymph nodes.

In conclusion, there is risk of tuberculosis transmission among healthcare workers at Fayoum University Teaching Hospital, mainly in internal medicine ward and the risk increase by long duration of work and by advanced age and those living in rural area

Key word: LTBI, tuberculin skin test, chest X-ray, healthcare workers.

AIM OF THE WORK

- To assess the prevalence of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) in Fayoum University Teaching Hospital.
- To determine the occupational risk of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection among a group of healthcare workers.