

RATES OF LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION AMONG MEDICAL STAFF IN A TB HOSPITAL FROM BRASOV, ROMANIA

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Background: Brasov County is situated in the central region of Romania and has a population of 595 758 inhabitants. In 2006, in this region, the TB incidence rate was **63‰**, lower than the national incidence rate (124,9‰)

Objective: The study aimed to measure the prevalence of Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) among the staff from a pneumology hospital, using QuantiFERON-TB Gold test (QFT).

Methods: We prospectively followed up 139 persons (medical and non-medical staff) from a county pneumology hospital who underwent QFT, a whole blood commercial assay. The persons identified as QFT-positive have been subject to a clinical and radiological examination, to eliminate the diagnosis of an active tuberculosis.

Results: LTBI was seen in 38,84% (54/139) of staff. The prevalence in different compartments was: 50% (44/88) in clinical departments, 19% (4/21) in ambulatory and 20% (6/30) in other compartments. QFT positive cases worked in TB-service on an average of 15,05±8,3 years and the negative cases of 9,62±5,9 years.

Conclusion: the rates of LTBI were extremely high in clinical services comparing to other compartments and the years of TB-service were higher among the positive cases. The QFT could have an useful role in screening of professional groups.