

Factors related to default under the “Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course” among Vietnamese tuberculosis patients residing in Japan

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Background

Japan uses the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) in a unique way to formulate nursing care plans and provide nursing services to all tuberculosis patients. In recent years, the number of non-Japanese tuberculosis patients has increased, and Vietnamese formed the largest non-Japanese population of tuberculosis patients residing in Japan in 2019.

Aim of the study

This study aims to identify risk factors for default from treatment specific to Vietnamese tuberculosis patients.

Methods

Interviews about the factors leading to default from the treatment were conducted with interpreters who interpret conversations between Vietnamese patients and Japanese public health nurses under the DOTS program, and the interview data were qualitatively and inductively analyzed.

Results

Five interpreters participated in the study. The analysis showed six categories: ‘Characteristics of Vietnamese tuberculosis patients placed in the Japanese environment’, ‘Treatment of tuberculosis weighing heavily on daily life’, ‘Burden from hospital visits’, ‘No reliable compatriots to consult’, ‘Meaning of words that are not meaningfully and correctly conveyed’, and ‘With only a businesslike explanation of the tuberculosis treatment, the true meaning cannot be conveyed’.

Conclusions and implications

For the participants the life in Japan was economically difficult, and continuing tuberculosis treatment made their daily life more difficult. The lack of explanation about the tuberculosis treatment as well as the language barrier may have contributed to the default from the tuberculosis treatment.