

TITLE: Prevalence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infections in outpatients in 2017 and 2018

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ABSTRACT:

Tuberculosis as a health problem requires efforts professional performance, collectives or not, to modify endemic patterns. There are estimates that one-third of the world's population is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Follow-up is necessary, reducing new infections and the number of patients and deaths. Thus, considering the complexity and importance of this disease, the present work followed the diagnosis, in the years 2017 and 2018, through the bacteriological cultures performed. Analysis of cultures for *M. tuberculosis* of 18,771 outpatients throughout all the months of 2017 and 2018. Data were observed and statistically analyzed, Chi-square test, focusing on sex, age groups, type of material collected and evolution of positivity over the period. In the year 2017, 9,843 were analyzed, being 5.19% positive (n = 492; 298 in sputum samples, and 194 in bronchoalveolar lavage samples); of this 59.76% came from male patients, and 40.24% from female patients. For the year 2018, there were 9,288 cultures, of which 5.65% were positive (n = 525, 335 in sputum samples and 190 in bronchoalveolar lavage samples), 56.19% in men and 43.81% in women. Differences in the parameters considered for the years analyzed were observed. The rates of positivity were different over the months, evidencing peculiarities that may be important in the actions of the professionals involved in the control of this serious infectious disease. Regardless of whether the differences are statistically significant or not, the higher prevalence in itself already represents an important fact worthy of attention.

Keywords: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; Tuberculosis; Prevalence

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