

## The Resurgence of Tuberculosis: Causes and Global Perspectives

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This issue of the Journal of Clinical Practice and Research (JCPR) is devoted to the topic of tuberculosis (TB), which has emerged as a significant public health concern in recent years. The disease has experienced an alarming rise in incidence, both in Türkiye and globally. This surge can be attributed to three key factors: the interaction between TB and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the increase in irregular migration, and the rising use of anti-tumor necrosis factor (anti-TNF) drugs. In alignment with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals, this special issue was initially scheduled for publication under the sub-item “Health and Quality of Life.”

In the context of the broader region, Türkiye has been particularly affected by the influx of irregular migrants, with the chaotic situation in neighboring countries causing millions of individuals to flee their homelands and seek refuge in Türkiye, particularly from Syria.

There has also been a recent increase in both latent TB and TB reactivation, coinciding with a rise in the use of biological drugs, such as anti-TNF agents, for treating a range of inflammatory disorders, including rheumatological, dermatological, and inflammatory bowel diseases.<sup>1–3</sup>

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Report 2023 provides a comprehensive and current assessment of the global TB epidemic and the progress made in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis at international, regional, and national levels.<sup>4</sup>

In 2022, the global number of people newly diagnosed with TB reached 7.5 million, marking the highest figure since the WHO initiated global TB monitoring in 1995. This figure surpassed the pre-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) baseline (and previous historical peak) of 7.1 million in 2019, increasing from 5.8 million in 2020 and 6.4 million in 2021. Tuberculosis remained the second most common cause of death from a single infectious agent in 2022, after COVID-19. In 2022, an estimated 1.3 million people died from TB, a decline from 1.4 million in both 2020 and 2021. The global number of deaths from TB fell by 19% from 2015 to 2022, falling short of the WHO target of a 75% reduction by 2025. Significant progress has been observed in the WHO African and European regions, with 47 countries achieving at least a 35% reduction in mortality. In 2022, the estimated global incidence rate of TB was 133 per 100,000 people. From 2015 to 2022, there was an 8.7% reduction in incidence, again falling short of the WHO target of a 50% reduction by 2025. Notably, 83 countries have achieved at least a 20% reduction.

A review of the WHO 2023 TB report reveals that the total incidence of TB in Türkiye is 12,000 (range 9,200–15,000), with 14 cases per 100,000 individuals (range 11–17). Notifications of TB



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cases in 2022 included a total of 9,723 new and relapsed cases, with 79% bacteriologically confirmed. The TB case fatality rate (estimated mortality/estimated incidence) in 2022 is 3% (range 2–4%). Of the new and relapsed TB cases registered in 2021, 80% achieved treatment success in a cohort of 8,947 cases.<sup>4</sup>

As evidenced by these statistics, the incidence of TB cases is on the rise, representing a significant challenge for Türkiye and the global public health community. In light of this, the JCPR is compelled to highlight this pressing concern through the publication of a dedicated special issue on TB.

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