

## Tuberculosis in Southwestern Ontario Emergency

### Departments: A Missed Opportunity?

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**Study/Objective:** The primary objective is to determine the clinical presentation of emergency department patients with Tuberculosis (TB) in southwestern Ontario, and to evaluate their pre-diagnosis emergency department utilization. Patterns and clinical findings will be used to develop a center-specific TB educational resource for ED physicians, to aid in the recognition and diagnosis of high risk patients which could be used at other large Canadian, urban tertiary care hospitals. Broadly, this study aims to increase awareness of TB in local EDs.

**Background:** The Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) reports on average 10 cases of active tuberculosis (TB) per year, with 99 cases between January 2005 and December 2015. Most patients with TB heavily utilize the emergency department (ED) prior to diagnosis. Patients with TB seeking care in the ED are often unrecognized as having TB, as risk factors and symptoms are frequently missed. Delays in diagnosis of TB worsen morbidity/mortality and increases disease transmission. The emergency department may present an opportunity for earlier diagnosis and intervention. To date, no studies have been undertaken to examine TB diagnosis and burden of care in Ontario EDs.

**Methods:** A hospital-based retrospective review of adult and paediatric patients (n = 99) identified by Middlesex-London Health Unit as having active TB between January 1st 2005 and December 31st 2015 will be performed. Health records will be reviewed 1 year prior to and 6 months after the formal TB diagnosis to determine the clinical presentation of ED patients with TB.

**Results:** This is a proposed study.

**Conclusion:** This is a proposed study.

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## Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (H-EDRM): Developing the Research Field within the Sendai Framework Paradigm

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**Study/Objective:** To review research trends and evidence in the field of Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management (H-EDRM), and to provide recommendations for the field moving forward.

**Background:** Health is recognized as an outcome and a goal of disaster risk reduction activities, which is acknowledged in

international agreements such as the International Health Regulations (2005) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015). H-EDRM has emerged as an umbrella field which encompasses emergency and disaster medicine, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), humanitarian response and health systems strengthening amongst other topics. The Thematic Platform on Emergency and Disaster Risk Management for Health was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in 2009 as an international, multi-agency platform to advocate, share information and catalyse action for H-EDRM.

**Methods:** On September 23, 2016 a workshop entitled “Emergency and Disaster Risk Management for Health: New Frontiers for Public Health Science” was held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Five presentations from international H-EDRM scholars and practitioners aimed to review emerging trends, identify gaps and provide recommendations for the strategic development of the H-EDRM research field. Subsequent closed-door roundtable discussions provided concrete action points.

**Results:** The H-EDRM research field remains underdeveloped and fragmented. Key challenges include overlap in research activities, lack of strategic research agenda, non-consensus regarding terminology, limited inter-stakeholder coordination, limited ability to develop multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary approaches, and lack of resources. Despite this, effort is being made to bridge the science-policy-practice nexus, learn from past experiences, and explore previously under-studied areas such as post-disaster psychosocial health. The Sendai Framework provides a strong impetus and robust framework to guide the strategic development of this research paradigm.

**Conclusion:** A WHO Research Group has been established to coordinate activities, promote information-sharing, develop partnerships toward H-EDRM and provide technical advice to the WHO Thematic Platform for EDRM-H, health sector and other related stakeholders.

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## Strengthening Health Disaster Risk Management in Africa: Multi-Sectoral and People-Centered Approaches are

Required in the Post-Hyogo Framework of Action Era  
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