

A study on patients knowledge of Tuberculosis and timeline to treatment

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Introduction

- TB is a disease of major public health concern, with an increasing trend
- Many patients present very late in the course of the disease
- Despite DOTS, some patients are defaulting therapy, and contact tracing attendance is also poor
- Relatively little information regarding knowledge of TB among patients

General Objective

- To assess the patients level of knowledge regarding tuberculosis
- To determine factors relating to delay in diagnosis or treatment of tuberculosis

Specific Objectives

To determine

- The **demographical** aspects associated with the level of knowledge e.g. age, race, gender, educational level and occupation.
- Types and the duration of symptoms that were present and timeline to treatment
- Initial point of healthcare and sputum examination

Specific Objectives *(cont)*

- Reasons for delay in therapy (if any)
- Knowledge and awareness about the disease and treatment

Study

- Descriptive study
- Cross sectional study (May- June 2006)
- Convenient sampling
- Self administered questionnaire

Participants

- Patients diagnosed with Tuberculosis and on treatment in the chest clinics in Perak Government Hospitals:
 - Hospital Ipoh, Taiping, Teluk Intan, Manjong(148)
 - Hospital Kampar, Sg Siput, Changkat Melintang, Batu Gajah, Tapah, Grik, Selama, Kuala Kangsar, Parit Buntar, Slim River(123)

Methodology

- Inclusion Criteria:
- Confirmed Pulmonary Tuberculosis Patients
- Willing to take part and understand the questionnaires

- **Exclusion criteria:**
 - Medically unstable or ill
- Not willing to take part or not able to understand the questionnaires

Methodology

- Questionnaire pilot tested
- Study proper was then started
- Patients eligible identified at waiting lounge of chest clinics
- Patients completed questionnaire while waiting for consultation
- Nurses ensured completion of questionnaire and data collection

Methodology

Questionnaire content:

- Demographic data
- Symptoms of TB
types, duration and timeline to seeking treatment

Methodology

Initial point of Healthcare

- Initial point of seeking treatment e.g Government or Private clinic/hospital, traditional treatment
- Whether sputum and Chest Xray was done at first visit
- How many visits prior to diagnosis of TB

Methodology

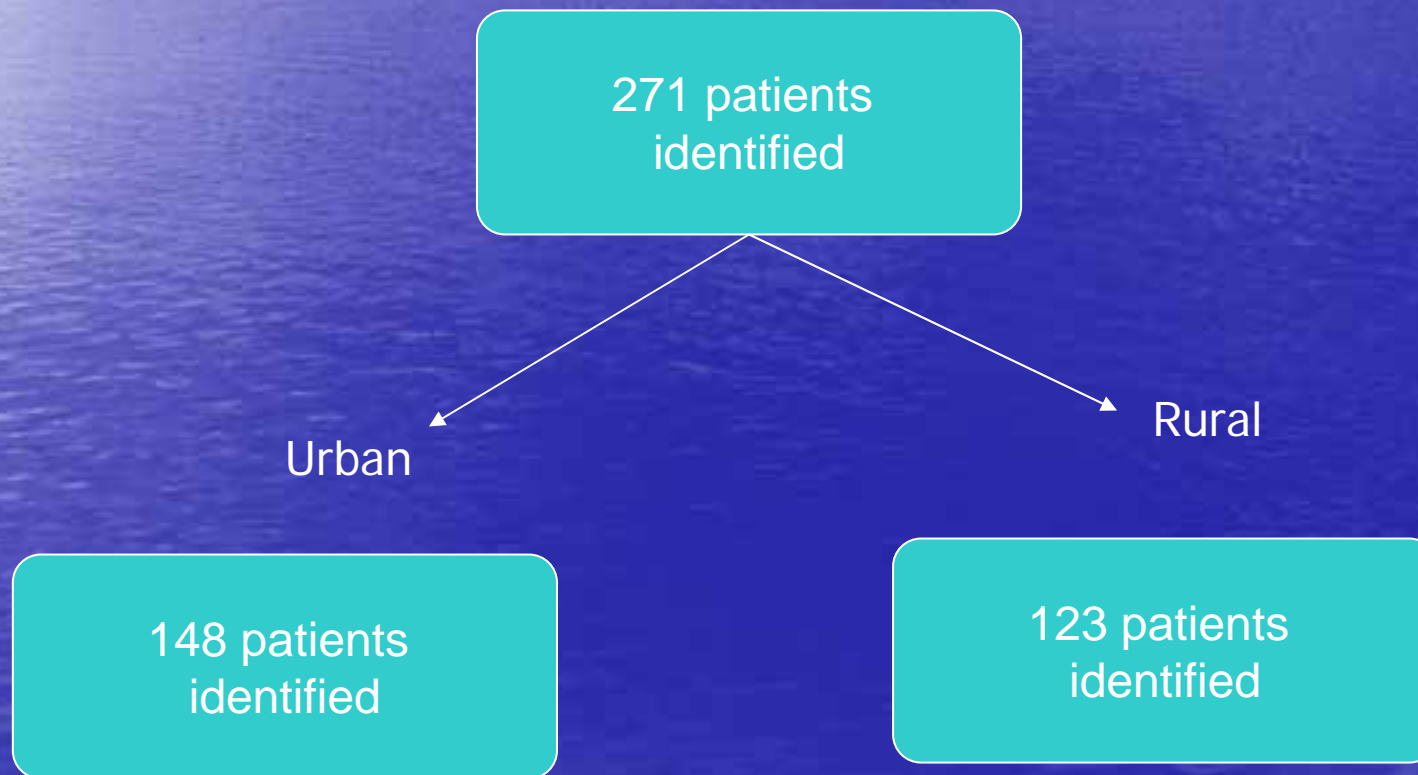
- Reasons for delay in treatment (if any)

Knowledge on TB

- Mode of spread, risk factors, regarding treatment duration and side effects, contact tracing

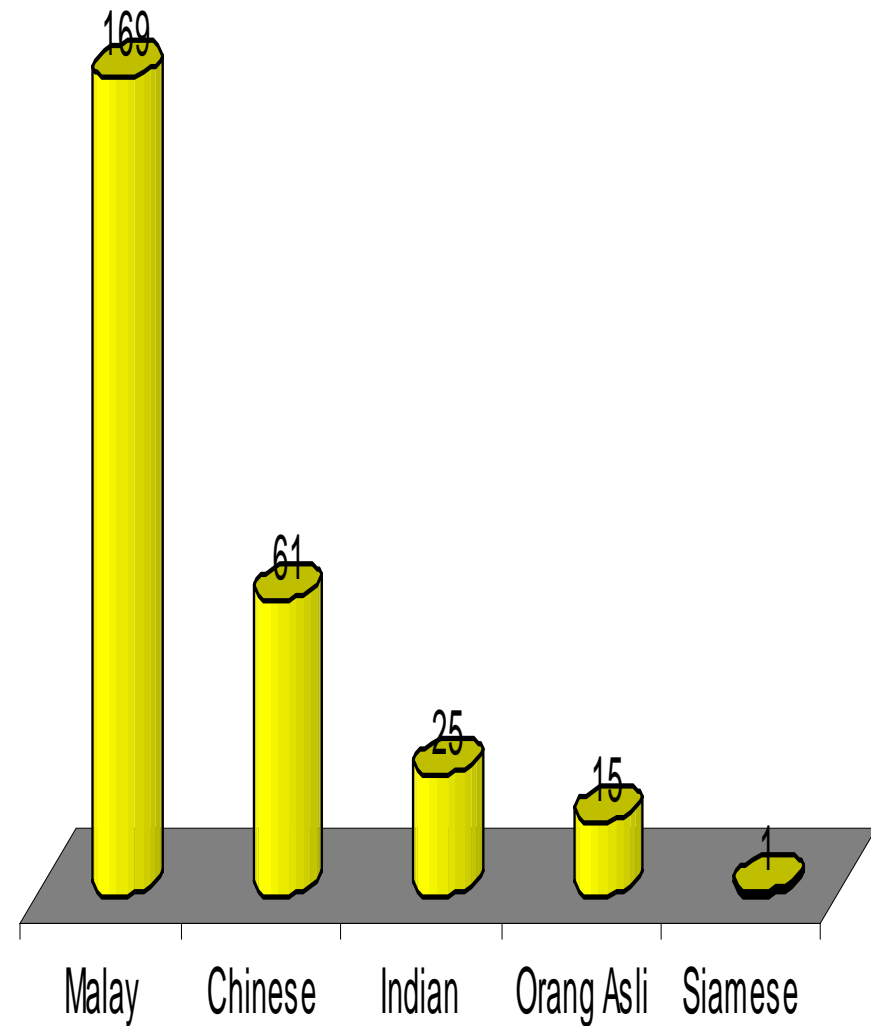
Results

Baseline sample



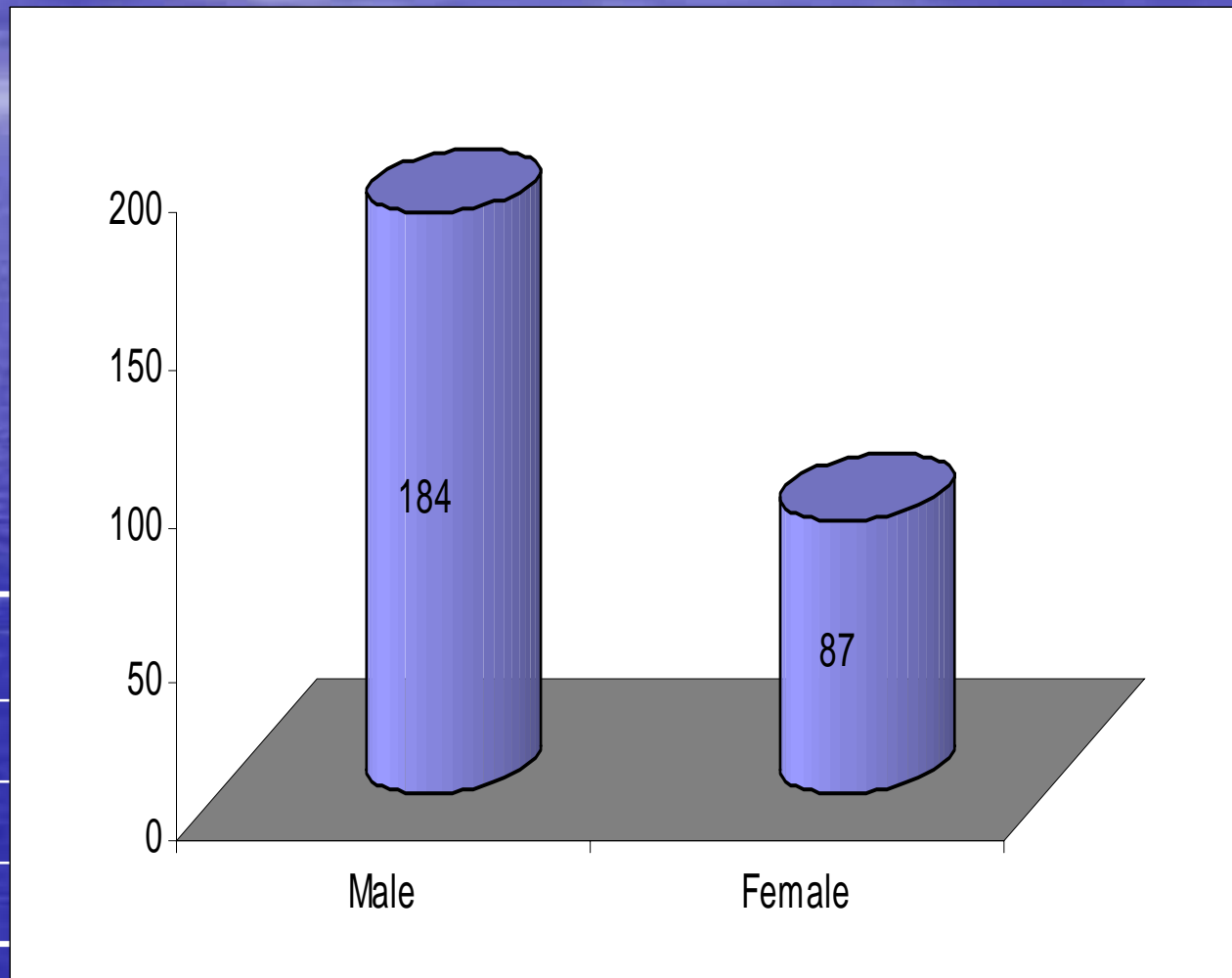
Ethnicity

Ethnic	Frequency	%
Malay	169	62.4
Chinese	61	22.5
Indian	25	9.2
Orang Asli	15	5.5
Siamese	1	0.4
Total	271	100

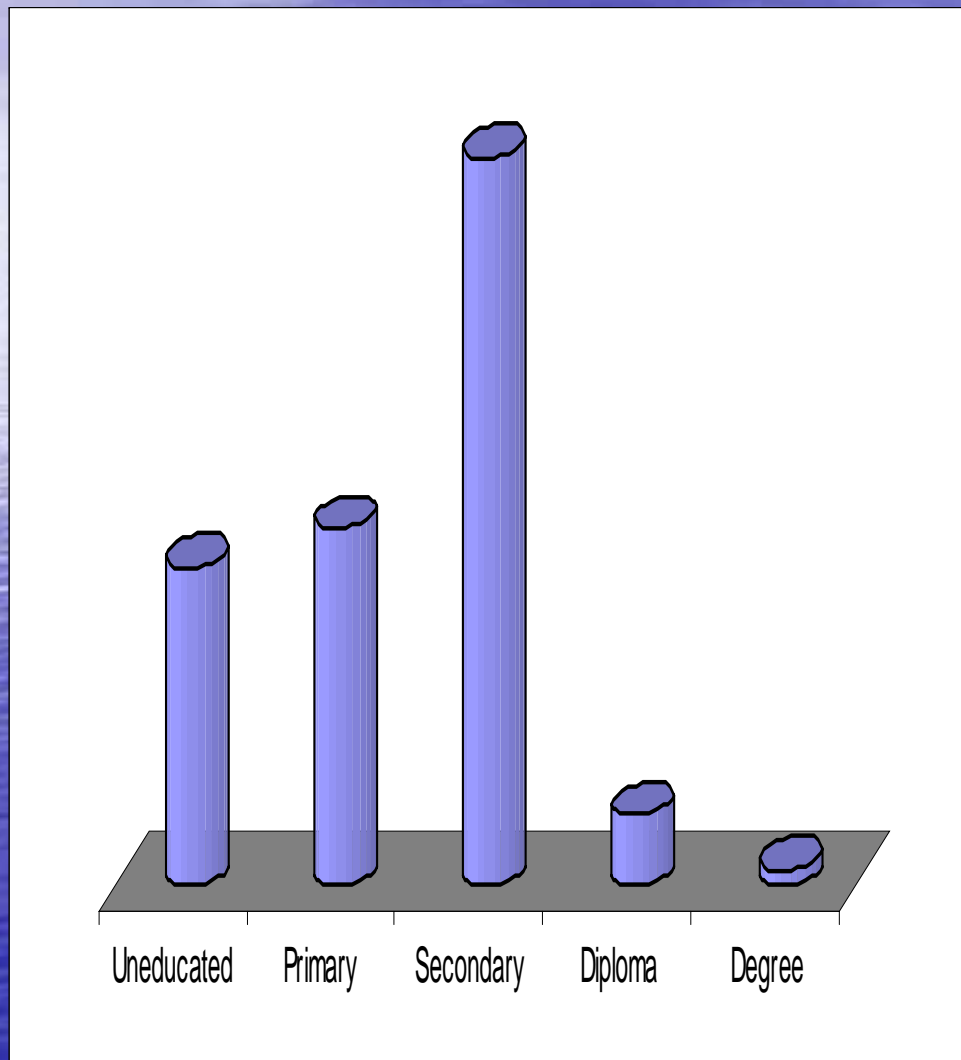


Gender

	Frequency	%
Male	184	67.9
Female	87	32.1
Total	271	100

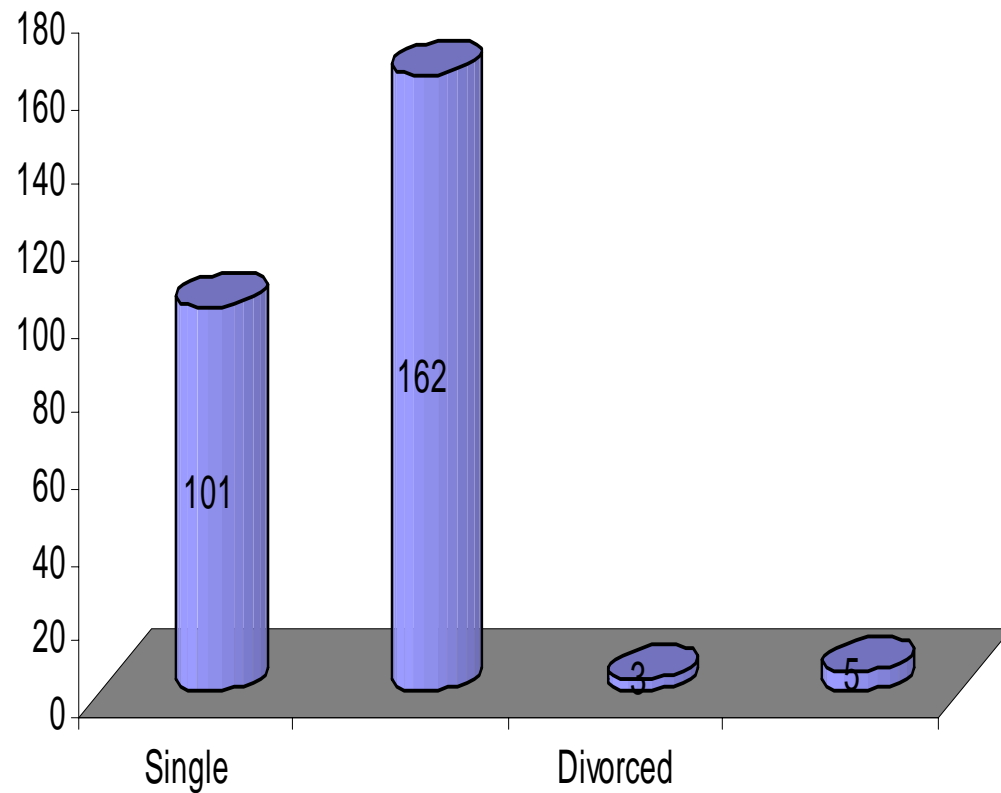


Educational Level



Frequency		%
Uneducated	58	21.4
Primary	65	24
Secondary	132	48.7
Diploma	13	4.8
Degree	3	1.1
Total	271	100

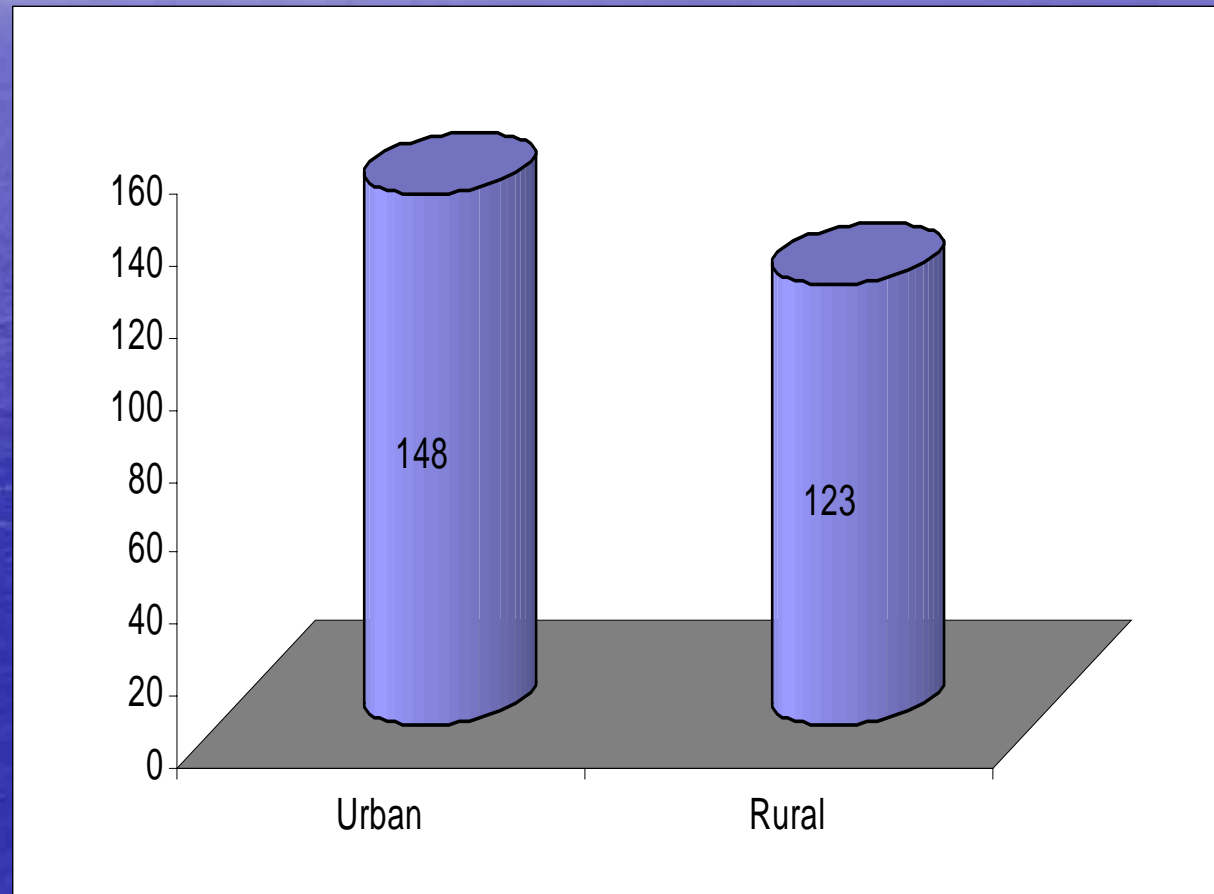
Marital Status



Frequency		%
Single	101	37.3
Married	162	59.8
Divorced	3	1.1
Widow/ Widower	5	1.8

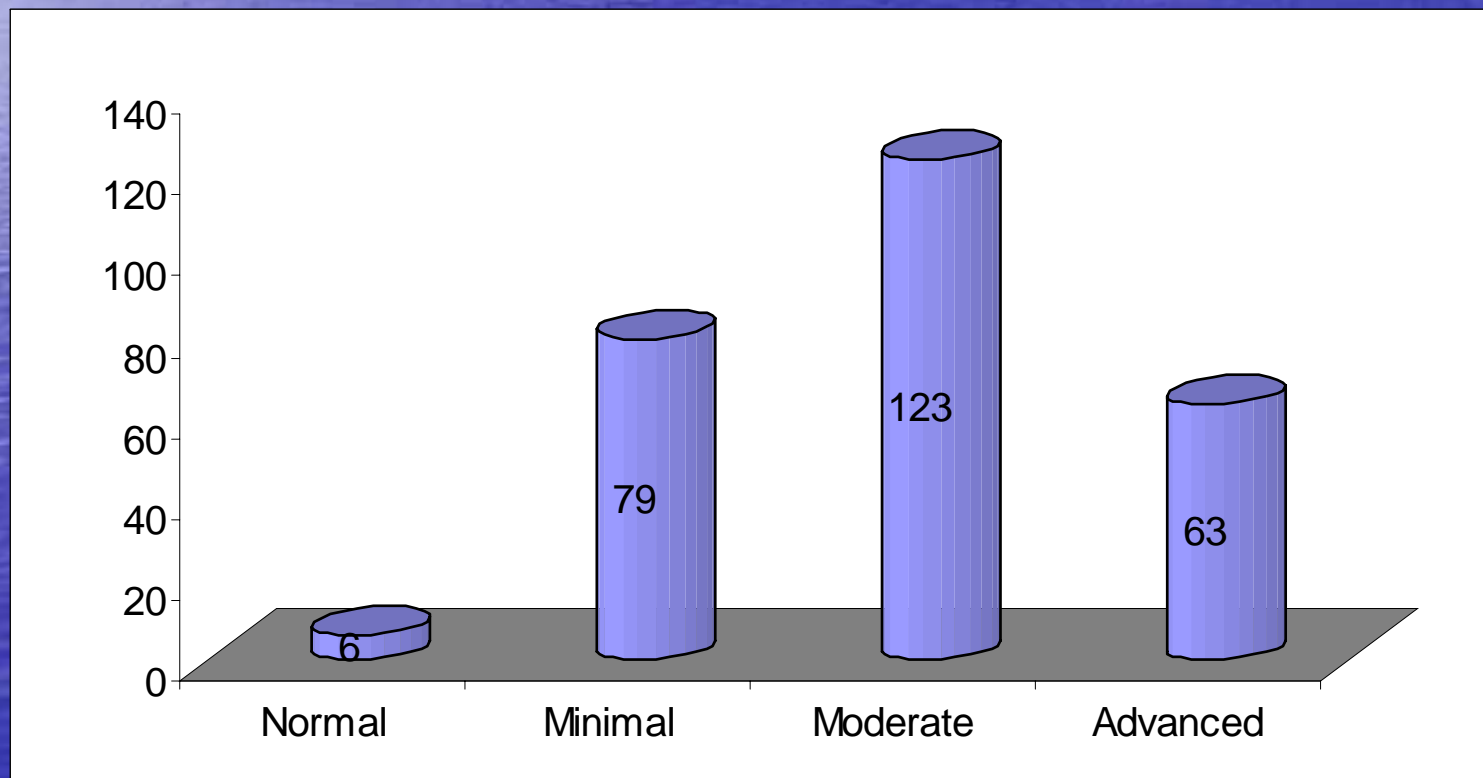
Area of origin of patient (Urban/Rural)

	Frequency	%
Urban	148	54.6
Rural	123	45.4
Total	271	100



X-Ray Findings

Frequency		%
Normal	6	2.2
Minimal	79	29.2
Moderate	123	45.4
Severe	63	23.2



Symptomology

- Night fever
- Cough > 10 days
- Loss of weight
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- Hemoptysis

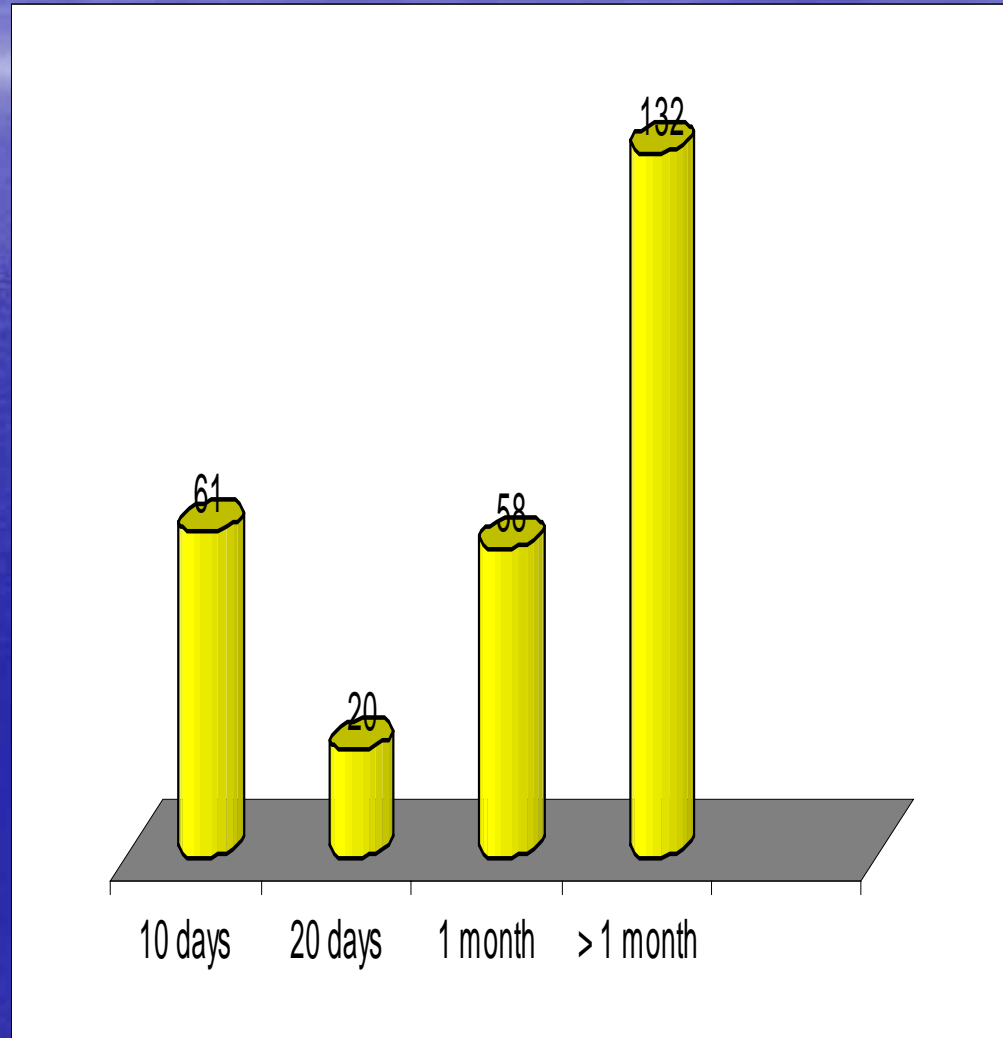
Number of symptoms of TB

Frequency		%
Six	33	12.2
Five	115	43.4
Four	53	19.6
Three	48	17.7
Two	6	2.2
One	16	5.9

} 74.2%
had 4 or
more
symptoms

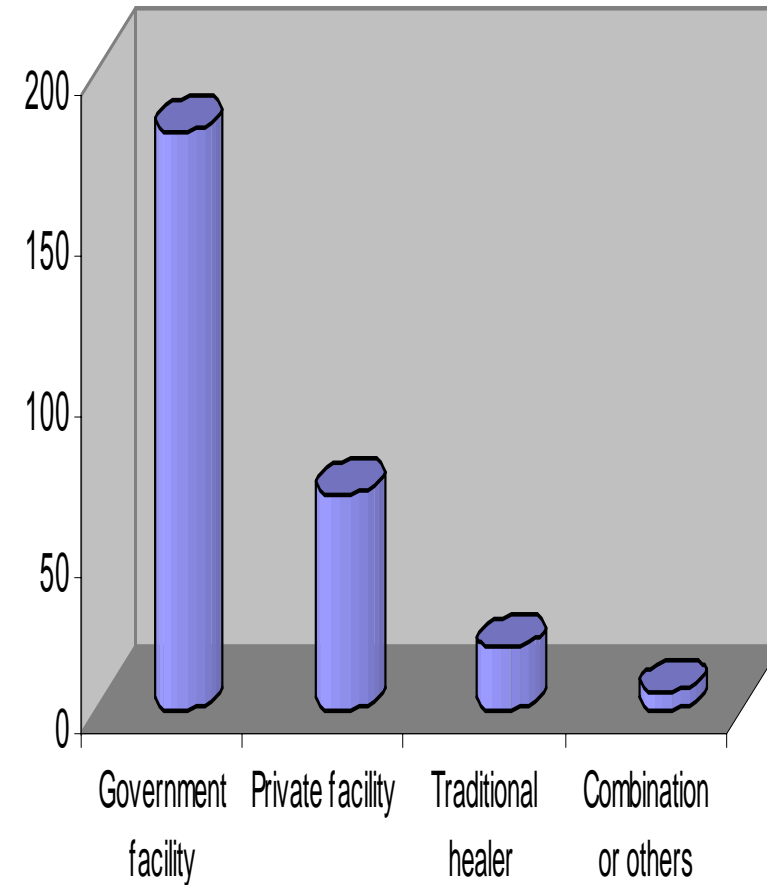
Duration of symptoms prior to treatment

Frequency		%
10 days	61	22.5
20 days	20	7.4
1 month	58	21.4
> 1 month	13	48.7
month	2	



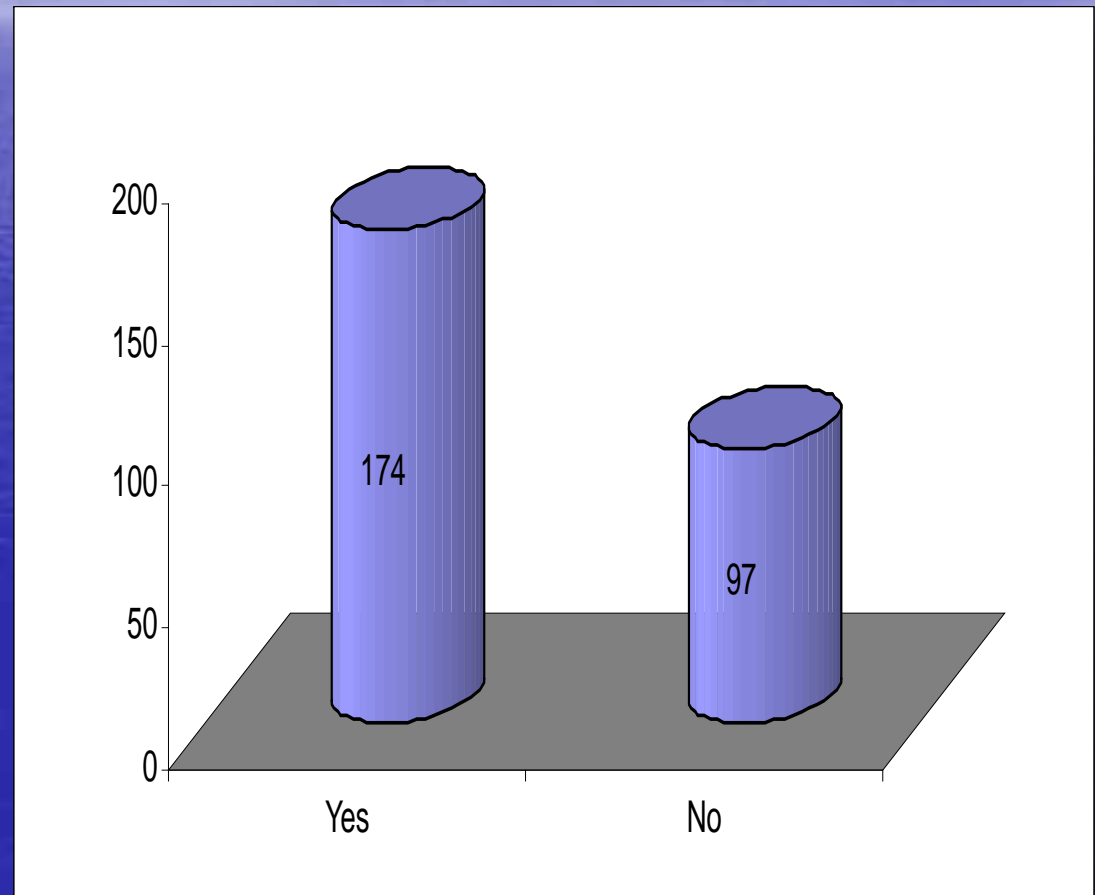
Initial point of healthcare sought

Frequency		%
Government facility	180	66.4
Private facility	67	24.7
Traditional healer	19	7.0
Combination or others	5	1.9



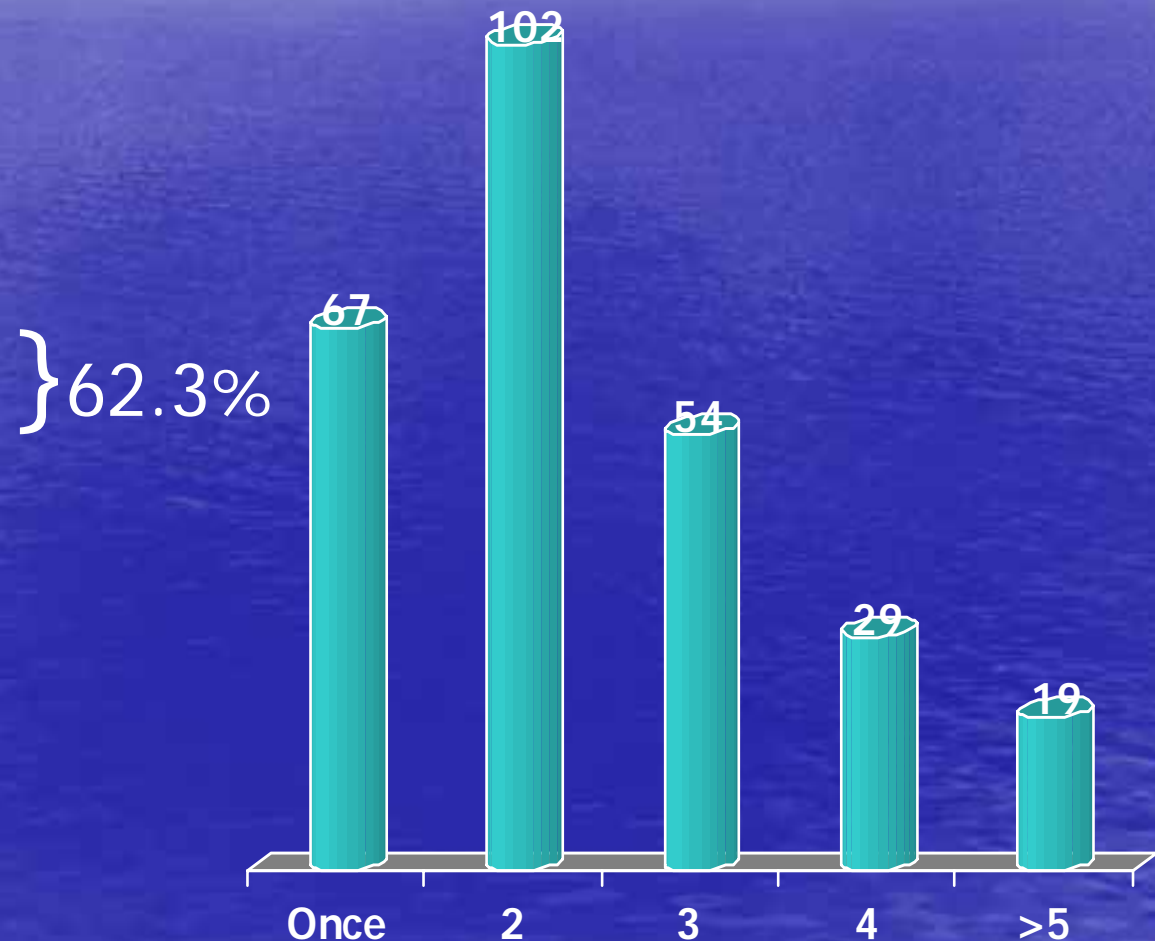
Sputum/ Xray Done at First Visit

	Frequency	%
Yes	174	64.2
No	97	35.8



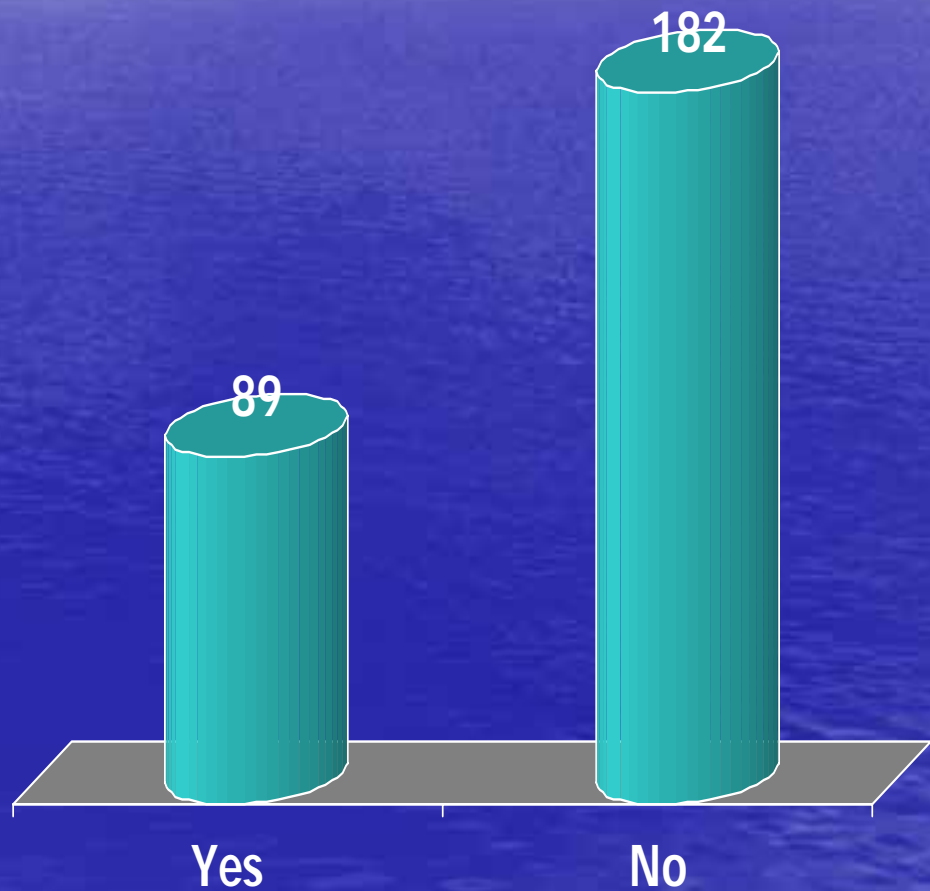
Number of Consultation(s) before Diagnosis

Frequency		%
Once	67	24.7
2	102	37.6
3	54	19.9
4	29	10.7
>5	19	7.0



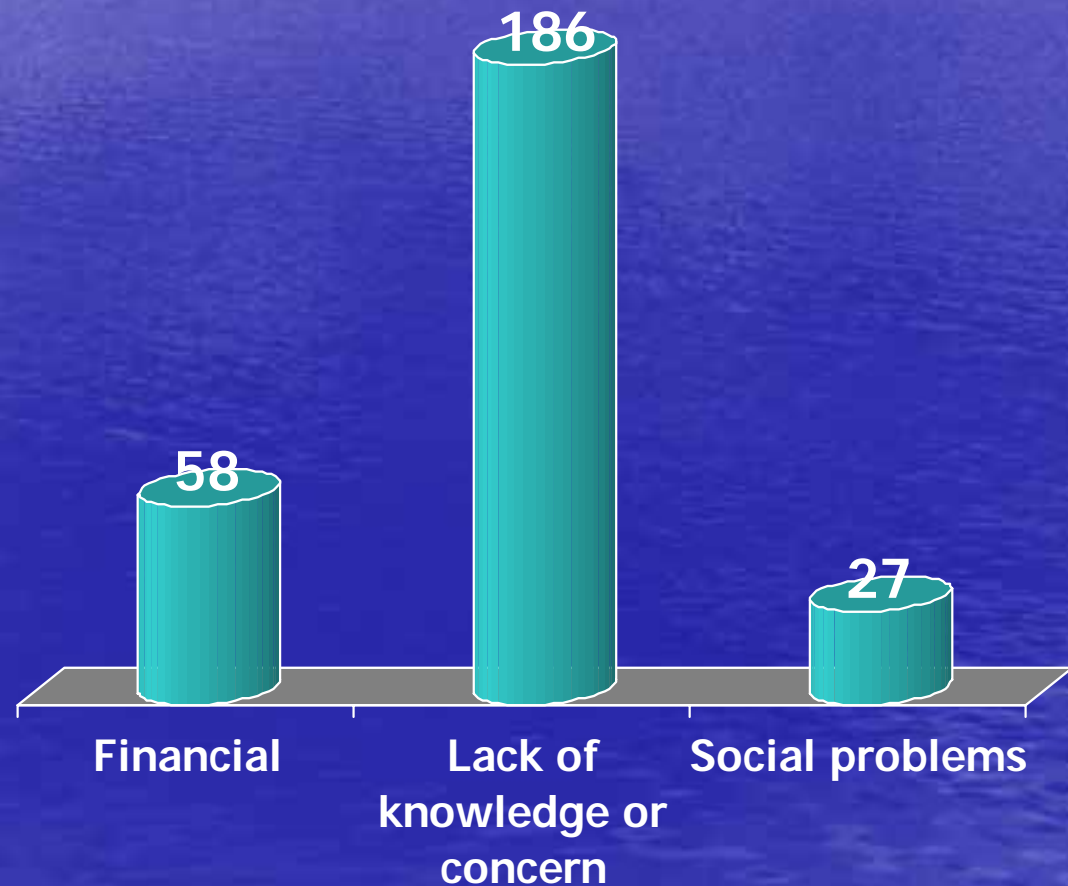
Awareness about tuberculosis infection prior to diagnosis.

Frequency		%
Yes	89	32.8
No	182	67.2



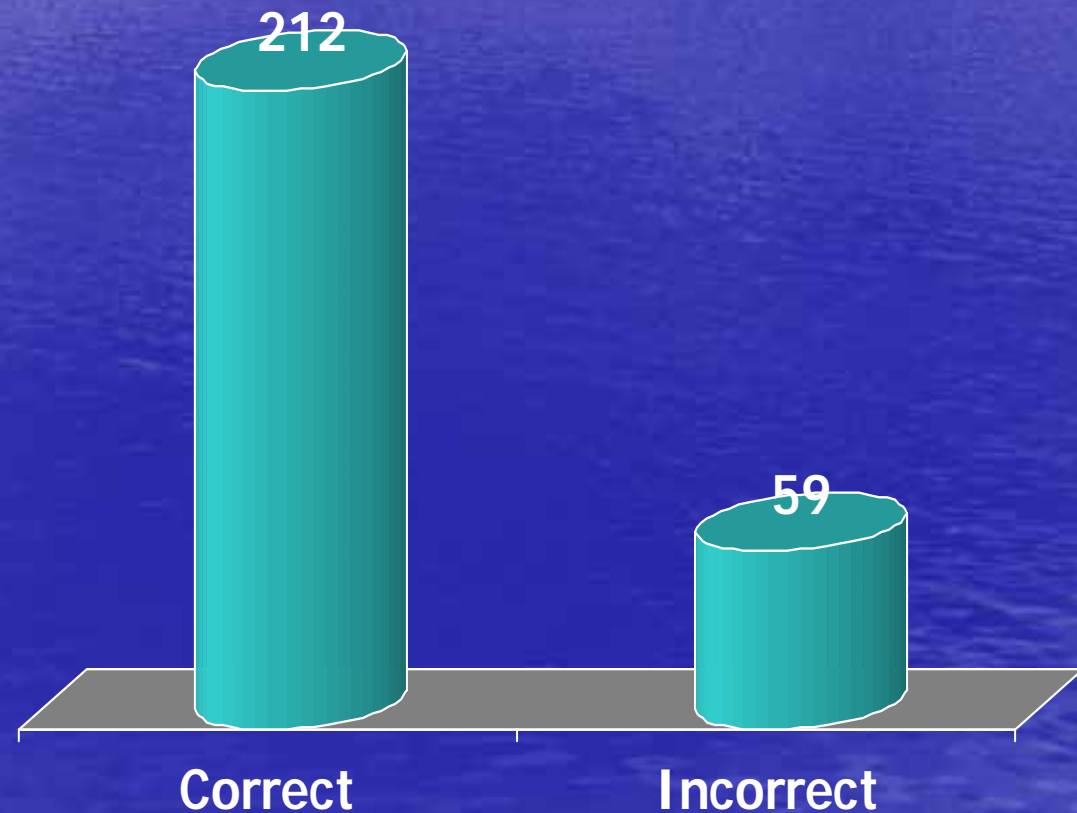
Reason for delay in seeking treatment (if any)

Frequency		%
Financial	58	21.4
Lack of Knowledge or concern	186	68.6
Social problems	27	10.0



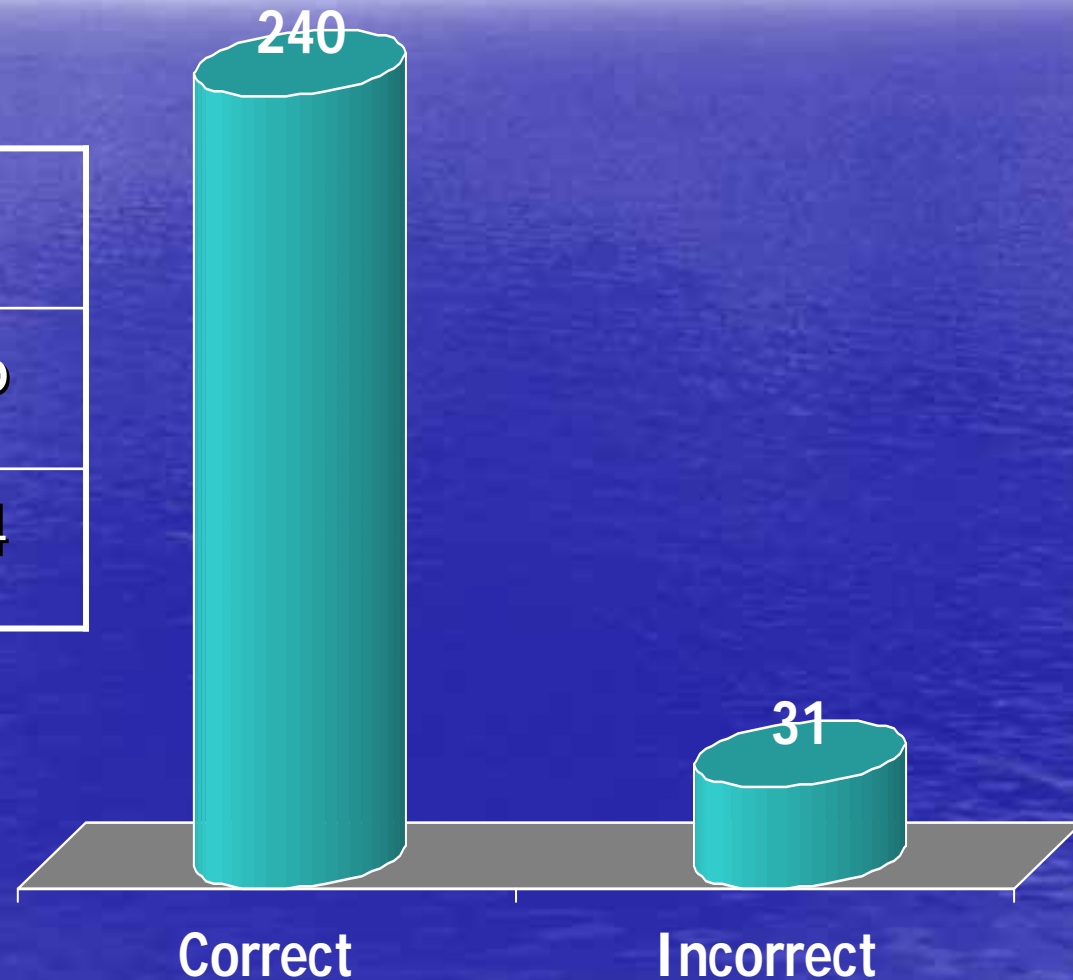
Knowledge on mode of transmission of TB infection

	Frequency	%
Correct	212	78.2
Incorrect	59	21.8



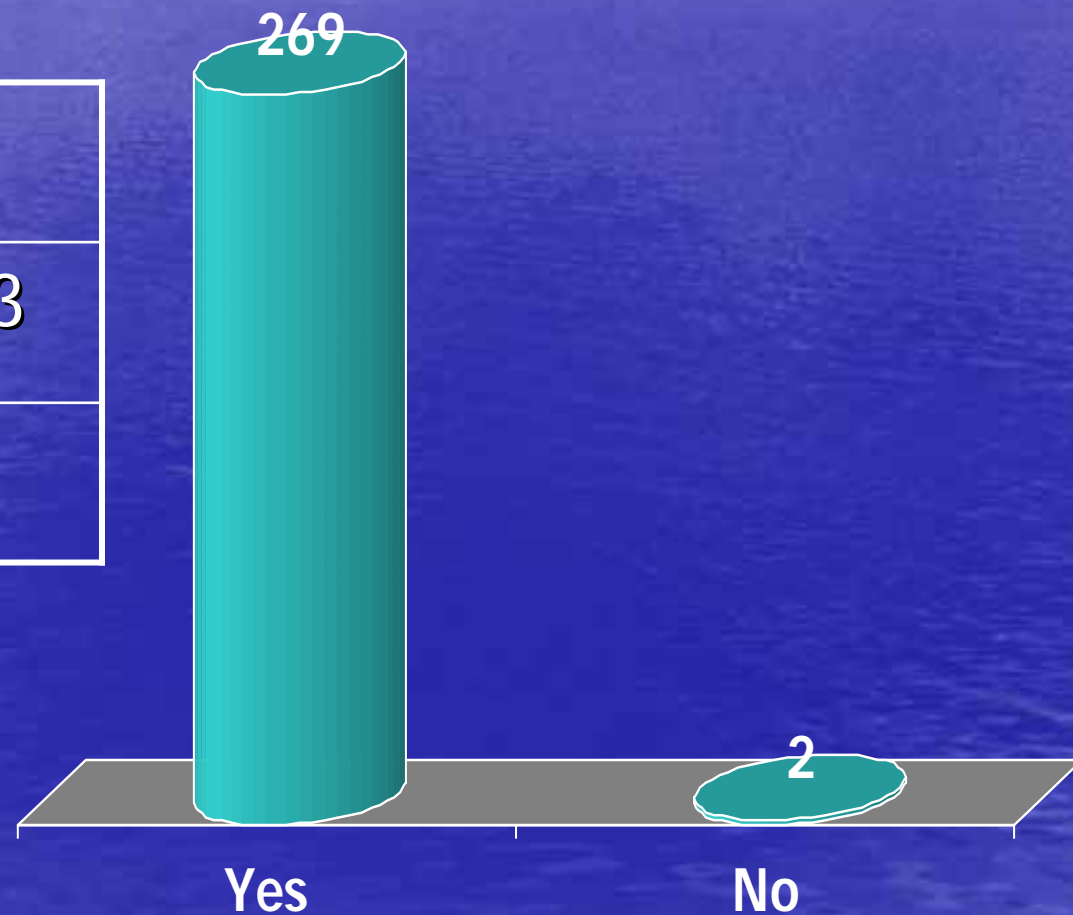
Knowledge on duration of TB treatment

	Frequency	%
Correct	240	88.6
Incorrect	31	11.4



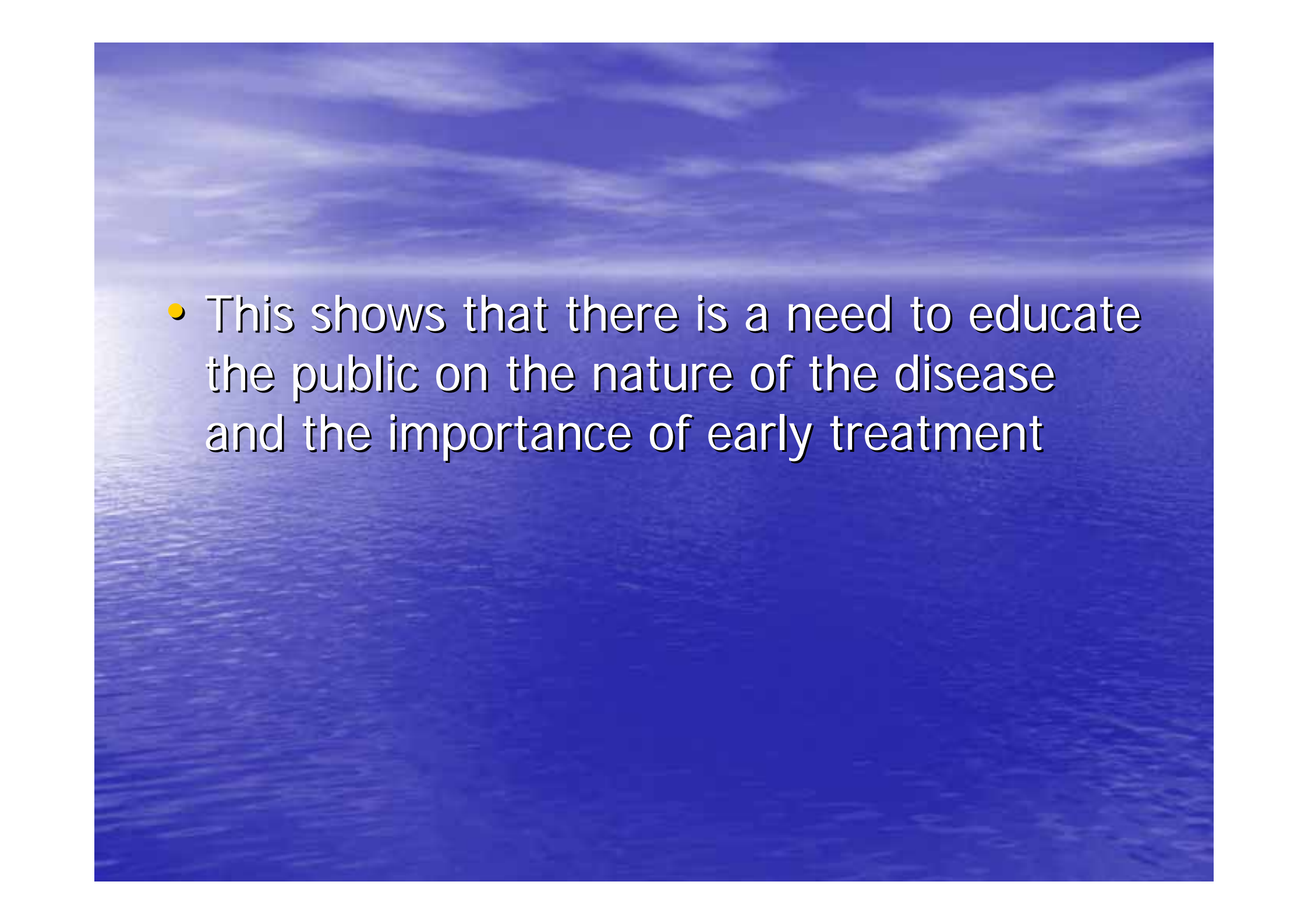
Can TB be cured?

Frequency		%
Yes	269	99.3
No	2	0.7



Conclusion

- The study shows that most patients been diagnosed fairly early on seeking treatment (82.2% by third visit), but a staggering 67.2% were unaware of the existence of tuberculosis infection and a similar number (68.6%) cited lack of knowledge and concern for delay in seeking treatment. .

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- This shows that there is a need to educate the public on the nature of the disease and the importance of early treatment



Thank you for listening