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CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IN THE OCCURRENCE OF ANY MENTAL DISORDERS IN PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS

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Psychiatry, Ministry of Health, Persahabatan General Hospital, East Jakarta, Indonesia Introduction: Tuberculosis (TB) is one of world's health problems. Morbidity and mortality caused by the disease are increasing annually. Aspects involved in TB are individual, environmental, and bacterial. It is important to consider not only one's physical factor but also mental factor such as comprehension and perception.

Objective: Stigma and social isolation may occur and precipitate any psychopathology and thus co morbidity of mental disorders in tuberculosis patients.

Aim: The aim of this research is to identify any contributing factors in the occurrence of any mental disorders in pulmonary tuberculosis patients.

Methods: Qualitative method of analysis was used; begin with determining the frequency of mental disorders in pulmonary tuberculosis, followed by interview and observation of the samples that mentally disordered.

Results: The frequency of any mental disorders in pulmonary tuberculosis was 20%. From qualitative analysis, themes such as comprehension, treatment seeking behavior, psychological impacts, stigma, financial, occupational impacts, and other stressors were obtained. Respondents' comprehension to the disease was not satisfying; treatment seeking behavior includes visiting public health services and hospitals; psychological impacts include Kubler-Ross' response and depression as the most prevalent; financial impact includes financial difficulties; occupational impacts include occupational problems and unemployment; and other stressors.

Conclusions: Respondents' comprehension to tuberculosis was not satisfying so thus worsen their perception of illness and of treatment seeking behavior. Their false perception will result in behavioral changes and social consequences like self-withdrawal, and together with stigma and any stressors will precipitate mental disorders.