

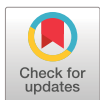


Gauging the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tuberculosis services: a global study

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Shareable abstract (@ERSpublications)

This global study of 43 TB centres from 19 countries demonstrates the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on TB services. Newly diagnosed TB disease, drug-resistant TB, TB deaths, outpatient clinic attendances and newly diagnosed TB infection were reduced. <https://bit.ly/3sdHbfc>

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To the Editor:

The effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on tuberculosis (TB) disease and TB services emerged in the beginning of 2020 [1, 2]. Epidemiological and clinical studies, including mortality rates of the first cohort of patients with COVID-19 and TB co-infection were described [3, 4]. Several reports from individual countries suggested that the COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected TB

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services [5–9], including validation by modelling studies [10]. The Global Tuberculosis Network (GTN) reported that the COVID-19 pandemic affected TB services in 33 TB centres from 16 countries in the first 4 months of 2020 [11]. An increased use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic was observed in some TB centres [11]. The major limitations of that study were the short period of observation (January to April 2020 compared to the same period in 2019) and the limited number of variables analysed [11–14].