Implementation of tuberculosis preventive care among HIV-positive patients at KwaThema community health centre
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Introduction: KwaThema CHC is located in a poor township south-west of Springs on the East Rand in Gauteng, South Africa. It was established in 1951 when Africans were resettled from Payneville because it was considered by the apartheid government to be too close to a white town. The township has high prevalence rate of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) co-infection. This quality improvement study aimed to improve implementation of TB preventive care among HIV-positive patients. The targets were to reach 100% of TB screening, 100% of patient education and 70% of Isoniazid prophylaxis.

Methodology: During two audits 372 patients were interviewed using a questionnaire, followed by an intervention period. Strategies aiming to improve the implementation of TB preventive care were implemented. After three months a second audit was conducted to measure the effect of the intervention. Data were captured and analysed using Epi Info version 3.0 and Microsoft Excel 2010. Ethics clearance was received from the Ethics Committee of the University of Witwatersrand.

Result: In terms of participants who received INH prophylaxis, the improvement was huge – from 10.7% in the first audit to 53.8% in the second audit, an increase of 43.1%. Concerning the education of patients about TB signs and symptoms, a big improvement was also found, from 41.2% of patients educated in the first audit to 85.5% in the second audit (increase of 44.4%). However, there was no significant improvement in the percentage of patients screened for active TB, from 92.5% in the first audit to 93.5% in the second audit.

Conclusion: Strong supervision and clinical support of health care workers and the availability of guidelines were found to be helpful to improve implementation of patient care in term of TB prevention.