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Abstract Group: 10.2. Tuberculosis

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Title: A 10-year retrospective observational study of TB meningitis in east London

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Body: Introduction Tuberculosis is a public health concern in London, with an increasing incidence. TB meningitis (TBM) is a rare form of extra-pulmonary TB, which carries disproportionately high mortality and morbidity rates. Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust (BHRUT) serves an area in East London with a high incidence of TB. This study aims to evaluate the epidemiology, clinical presentation and outcome of patients diagnosed with TBM. Methods Individuals diagnosed with TBM between 2000 and 2010 were identified using the London TB Register. A retrospective observational study was conducted, reviewing medical notes, microbiology results and radiology. Data was collected for epidemiology, clinical features, risk factors, treatment regimens and outcome. Results 50 patients with TBM were identified and notes were available for 42. 82% were born outside the UK with the highest incidence seen in patients born in India. All patients were treated for at least 12 months with 92% receiving concurrent steroids. Other information is shown below.

Presenting Clinical Features

	Percentage
Symptoms > 1 week	72
Headache	62
Fever	50
Confusion	31
Focal neurology	12
Photophobia	14
Neck stiffness	12
Vomitting	38

Outcome

	Percentage
ITU admission	31
Death	21
Long term neurological deficits	13

Conclusion TBM has a high mortality rate in east London with a high proportion of patients requiring treatment in intensive care or suffering long-term neurological sequelae. Confirming diagnosis is challenging as presentation is non-specific, potentially leading to treatment delay. Development of a diagnostic scoring system using clinical features, risk factors and CSF data to aid early diagnosis would prove extremely valuable.