ABSTRACT

In Portugal is not established which the importance of identification of contacts that are forgotten by patients with tuberculosis. There are few known studies that have examined properly the reasons influencing patients with tuberculosis to identify only a few or even no contact.

This study analyzed the determinants of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis that prevent the identification of contacts, as well as, the determinants of contacts that prevent the identification of same by patients.

Were categorized two groups: those cases (not identified all the contacts / identified all the contacts), and your contacts (identified by public health unit / identified by patients). Studied separately the groups to learn the association between the main variables of study.

Were analyzed 61 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 20 (32.8%) cases were not able to identify all your contacts and 41 (67.2%) cases that were able to identify all your contacts. Were identified 646 contacts, being that, 154 (23.8%) was identified by public health unit and 492 (76.2%) contacts were identified by patients. Were detected 15 (14.7%) infected contacts that were not identified by patients during the interview.

There are no statistically significant differences between the cases that did not identify all contacts compared to the cases that have identified all of your contacts. The multivariate analysis indicated two relevant variables so that the contacts are not identified: professional situation OR adjusted 4.82 (1.71; 13.54) and type of contact OR adjusted 0.22 (0.10; 0.47).

In our population, patients with pulmonary tuberculosis did not identify a considerable number of contacts that work, are not members of the families of patients and not cohabitant.

Keywords: tuberculosis, contact identification, tracing, investigation of contacts.