

Resistant Tuberculosis at the Tamale Teaching Hospital of Northern Ghana

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Upper East Region is located in the north Ghana and is the second smallest of 10 administrative regions in Ghana, occupying a total land surface of 8,842 square kilometers or 2.7 percent of the total land area of Ghana, precisely located in the kingdom of Dagbon. The Upper East regional capital is Bolgatanga, sometimes referred to as Bolga. Other major towns in the region include Navrongo, Paga, Bawku and Zebilla.

2. LOCATION AND SIZE

The Upper East region is located in the north-eastern corner of Ghana, precisely located in the Kingdom of Dagbon, and bordered by Burkina Faso to the north and Togo to the east. It lies between longitude 0° and 1° West, and latitudes 10° 30'N and 11°N. The region shares boundaries with Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east, Upper West Region to the west, and the Northern Region to the south. The Upper East region is divided into 10 districts, each headed by a district chief executive. With only 21 per cent of the population living in urban areas, the region is the least urbanized in Ghana. In fact, together with the Upper West, they are two regions with a less than 20 per cent urban population.

Ghanaian citizen by birth, childhood or parenthood constitute 92.5 percent of the population of the Upper East region. Naturalized Ghanaian citizen constitute 5.3 percent.

3. TRANSPORTATION

Three National highways- N2, N10 and N11-and a few regional highways such as the R113, R114, R116 and R181, serve the region.

The N10 originates from Yemoransa in the Central Region and connects through Kumasi in the Ashanti Region and terminates at Paga in the Upper East Region. The national capital of Accra is also connected to the region by N2 which terminates in Kulungugu in the Upper East Region. Both these national routes are connected by the N11 which links the regional capital of Bolgatanga to Bimpiela, also in the region.

4. DISTRICTS

The political administration of the region is through the local government system. Under this administration system, the region is divided into 9 districts. Each District or Municipal Area is administered by a chief executive, representing the central government but deriving authority from an Assembly headed by a presiding member elected from among the members themselves.

5. POPULATION

The center of population of the Upper East Region is located in its capital of Bolgatanga. The population is primarily rural (79%) and scattered in dispersed settlements. The rural population was 87.1 percent in 1984 and 84.3% in 2000. There was, thus, a 2.8 percent point reduction in the rural share of the population between 1984 and 2000 and a further 5.3 percent reduction between 2000 and 2010.

6. BACKGROUND

- Potts disease is rare in the UK but in developing countries it represents about 2% of cases of tuberculosis and 40 to 50% of musculoskeletal tuberculosis.

- Tuberculosis worldwide accounts for 1.7 billion infections, and two million deaths per year.
- Over 90% of tuberculosis occurs in poorer countries, but a global resurgence is affecting richer ones.
- India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh have the largest number of cases but there has been a marked increase in the number of cases in the former Soviet Union and in sub-Saharan Africa in parallel with the spread of HIV.
- About two thirds of affected patients in developed countries are immigrants, as shown from both London and Paris and spinal tuberculosis may be quite a common presentation.
- The disease affects males more than females in a ratio of between 1.5 and 2:1. In the USA it affects mostly adults but in the countries where it is commonest it affects mostly children.

7. DISCUSSION

Potts disease is extra pulmonary tuberculosis, which of late has increased in frequency at the chest clinic of the Tamale Teaching Hospital. As recorded by this research more than 70% of the confirmed cases were from the Upper-East region of Ghana. Further studies will have to be conducted to explain this finding as documented in 2010 at the Teaching Hospital, it was found that delay in intervention after the incubation period, the micro bacteria disseminates to the spinal cord. If immunity compromises, the vertebral body gets hypotrophy, due to intoxication by the pathogen. The failure to absorb calcium, oxygen, vitamin c and vitamin will lead to spondylitis and finally to spinal collapse the spinal collapse causes stenosis which results in the manifestation of ne neurological deficit and to Para paresis (3.). Also as proven in the results more women suffer pots disease than men. Further studies will have to be conducted to explain the phenomenon.

8. CONCLUSION

CT images demonstrated the spinal level of destruction. Improved resolution also showed detailed changes within the outlined soft tissue masses, facilitating early diagnosis and prompt initiation of therapy. More than 70% of the cases were from the Upper East region of Ghana.

Women and young adults were most vulnerable (76.7%). Chronic back pain and neuropathy were the presenting complains (53.3%) further investigation is recommended to explain the epidemiology.

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