



# Implementation of Primary Prophylaxis with Isoniazid (INH) in Children Who Are Contacts of Patients with (Pulmonary) Tuberculosis in Visakhapatnam under NTEP: A mixed method study.

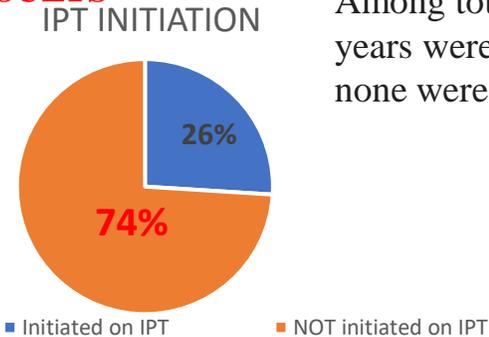


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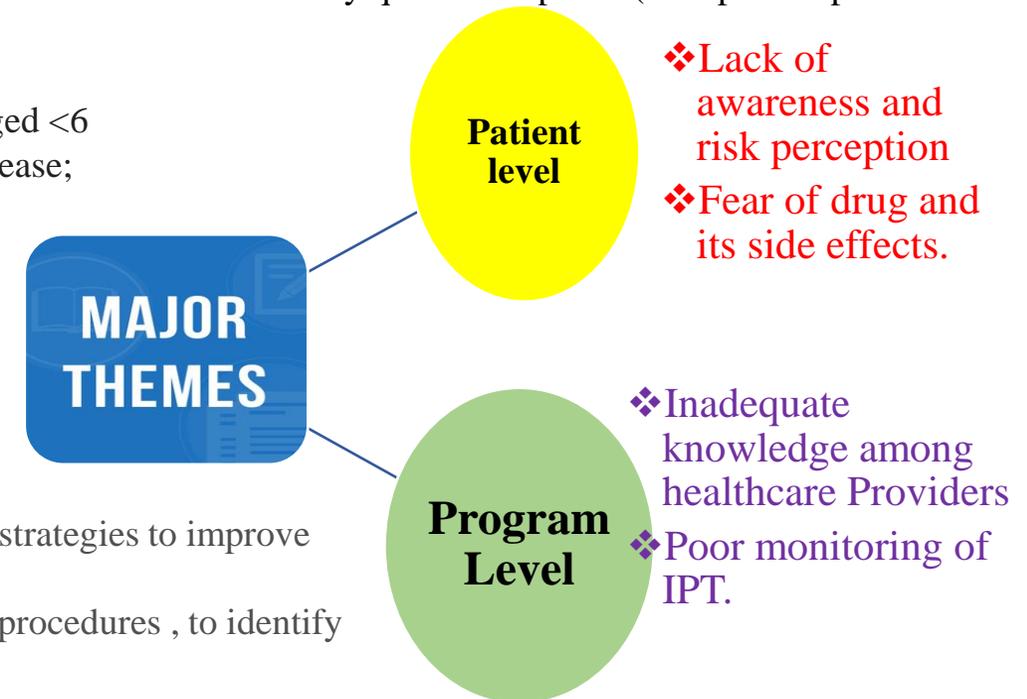
**INTRODUCTION :** Daily Isoniazid (INH) for at least 6 months given a preventive therapy to young children has been shown to greatly reduce the likelihood of the child developing TB disease during childhood[1].Even though IPT is a global recommendation, Tuberculosis in children is under-counted and under-treated, its initiation and completion rate is sub-optimal. The level of awareness among health care providers, interruption of INH supply, co-infection with HIV, lack of recording tools for IPT and distance from health facilities affect uptake of the service in different settings. The study **OBJECTIVES** are to assess the proportion of child contacts of registered Sp-TB cases in Tuberculosis Units (TU) of Visakhapatnam district in North coastal Andhra Pradesh who were screened for TB, initiated and subsequently completed IPT and to Understand the reasons for non-initiation and non-compliance of IPT from healthcare providers' and parents perspective.

**METHODOLOGY :** A mixed-method study, where in quantitative phase (secondary data analysis )was done followed by Interviews with the parents and health care providers in Selected Tuberculosis units. **Study participants & Sampling technique:** For the quantitative part, all child contacts of Sp-TB patients aged <6 years in the study TU's, registered in previous 2quarters of the study (January 2020-june 2020) were included. For the qualitative part, in depth interviews were done to TB-related healthcare providers and parents of children. Purposive selection employed. **Study tool:** Structured open ended questionnaire and in depth telephonic interviews. **Data Collection Method:** Secondary data analysis by accessing Tb registers ,records and treatment cards was done followed by qualitative phase (in depth telephonic Interviews ; in view of ongoing COVID 19 pandemic) with the parents and health care providers.

## RESULTS



Among total patients(n=203) in 2 quarters,41 household contacts aged <6 years were identified. All Of them (100%)were evaluated for TB disease; none were found to be TB diseased .



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1)There is a 100% evaluation of child contacts,but <30% are imitated on IPT.So ,need for better strategies to improve the IPT inatitaton among child contacts.
- (2)Step up programmatic efforts and Strengthen health systems at all levels to optimize screening procedures , to identify children at risk of TB and reduce pediatric T.B burden.
- (3) Advocacy among stake holders about IPT.