TB/AIDS threat to KZN

Tuberculosis is a deadly disease. In SA, thousands of people are receiving treatment for it. On World TB Day today, Kamcilla Pillay speaks to an expert.

One third of the world’s population is infected with TB. In 2017, 10.4 million people around the world contracted TB and 1.8 million died from it. According to the World Health Organisation, there were 1.8 million TB-related deaths in 2015 globally.

This makes TB the world’s most dangerous infectious disease. South Africa, one of 22 high-burden countries worldwide, is also treating patients suffering from extensively drug-resistant TB (MDR TB), a type of multi drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB), which has also become a dangerous problem. MDR-TB is also treating patients in high-burden countries in the world, is also treating patients suffering from extensively drug-resistant TB (MDR TB), a type of multi drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB), which has also become a dangerous problem. South Africa’s burden of XDR-TB is increasing and is viewed as a threat.

According to the recently released Statistics SA report released in December 2015, all TB cases had an estimated 15% HIV-TB co-infection rate.

Half a million South African babies are born with HIV every year and 50% of children infected with TB are also infected with HIV. According to the recently released Statistics SA report on “Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2015: Findings from death notification”, the TB death rate in South Africa, 2015: Findings from death notification, she said, occurred when a patient developed resistance to at least four first-line and second-line drugs used to treat tuberculosis.

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