

Extrapulmonary TB can persist even TB is resolved. Challenges around with treating extrapulmonary TB?

India has been a legacy contributor to the causes of tuberculosis. Given that, extrapulmonary TB (EPTB) is complicating the already complex TB ecosystem.

EPTB Extrapulmonary TB cases are the disease that persist outside the lungs such as eye, lymph nodes, gut and skull. This accounts to 15% to 25% of all the TB cases.

EPTB poses a number of challenges to the process of TB containment.

Challenges

① Negative smear - The EPTB cases

are not detected under the normal TB tests. This under reports the number of people with actual TB conditions.

② Affects other organs

The EPTB affects other organs as it goes undetected. Many TB patients after recovering, lose their vision. EPTB causes irreparable damage to the body parts.

③ Lack of data there is no information sharing between the TB providers and specialized organ doctors. This causes a data mismatch in tracking out the prospective patients.

④ Drug resistance - In India TB cases are getting drug resistance. In such resistance, treating EPTB patients becomes a tough challenge.

What can be done

Revamp the Index TB which was launched to generate guidelines regarding EPTB with latest data and diagnostic techniques.

Bringing EPTB under the ambit of anti-TB measures such as Nikshay scheme, National TB Elimination programme can synergise the efforts.

TB musth Bharat

India must prioritise diagnosis and data collection along with formulating treatment guidelines can counter EPTB.