PSNet
PATIENT SAFETY NETWORK

Incidence, duration and risk factors associated with delayed and missed diagnostic opportunities related to tuberculosis: a population-based longitudinal study.

March 24, 2021
Miller AC, Arakkal AT, Koeneman S, et al. Incidence, duration and risk factors associated with delayed and missed diagnostic opportunities related to tuberculosis: a population-based longitudinal study. BMJ Open. 2021;11(2):e045605. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2020-045605.
https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/incidence-duration-and-risk-factors-associated-delayed-and-missed-diagnostic-opportunities

Delayed diagnosis is a critical patient safety concern. This cohort study, consisting of 3,500 patients with tuberculosis (TB) over a 17-year period, found that more than three-quarters of patients experienced at least one missed opportunity for a diagnosis in the year before they were finally diagnosed with TB. The average duration of the diagnostic delay was nearly 32 days. Missed opportunities occurred most commonly in outpatient settings. A previous WebM&M commentary discusses patient harm resulting from a missed TB diagnosis.