ABSTRACT

A retrospective cohort analysis was conducted to determine the cure rate among new smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis patients at Ramathibodi hospital in 1999. Two-hundred and thirty-four patients identified from the computerized database of the central laboratory at the hospital were all included in the study. It appeared that the cure rate was 23.1% (54 out of 234 patients). The other major treatment outcomes were: treatment-completed (without sputum smear examination for acid-fast bacilli at the end of treatment, 30.3%), defaulted (did not collect drugs for two months or more, 28.6%), and transferred out (8.5%). According to the data set available, the cure was found to have a significant relationship with sputum conversion at the end of the second month of treatment (p-value = 0.000, adjusted odds ratio = 6.38) and place of residence (p-value = 0.031, adjusted odds ratio = 2.24).

It might be concluded that the tuberculosis case management at Ramathibodi Hospital in 1999 was not effective in cutting the chain of TB transmission according to the World Health Organization’s criteria. To rectify the problem, the WHO’s guideline for sputum smear examination during TB treatment should be followed, intensive monitoring of TB treatment especially during the first two months of initial phase of short-course chemotherapy should be performed, and transfer out registry might be considered.