Table 2 Tuberculosis knowledge about cause, transmission, treatment and prevention among non-health science university students, eastern Ethiopia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>n (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Is TB communicable</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1390</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No idea</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disease seriousness</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very serious</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>64.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat serious</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not serious</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Idea</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Causes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad luck/curse</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold wind</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viruses</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others*</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transmission mode</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Through the air when the infected Person coughs or sneezes 1439 (83.7)
Through eating from the same plate 83 (4.8)
Through touching items in public places (doorknobs, handles in transportation) 105 (6.1)
Through handshakes 12 (.7)

Can TB be cured?
No 15 (.9)
Yes, Completely 1312 (76.3)
Yes, Partially 267 (15.5)
No idea 126 (7.3)

The best means of treatment
Don’t Know 56 (3.3)
Herbal Remedies 67 (3.9)
Homemade Remedies 68 (4.0)
Prayer 87 (5.1)
Holy water 28 (1.6)
Modern medicine 1414 (82.2)

Know about DOTS program
No 831 (48.3)
Yes 583 (33.9)

Risks if treatment is not taken
Don’t know 197 (11.5)
Infect others 542 (31.5)
Loss weight 155 (9.0)
Develops severe health problem 224 (13.0)
No effect 47 (2.7)
Death 555 (32.3)

**Risks if treatment is not completed**

Don’t know 282 (16.4)
Drug resistance 163 (9.5)
Relapse 115 (6.7)
Inability to cure infection 504 (29.3)
No effect 17 (1.0)
Death 639 (37.2)

**Means of prevention**

Do not know 121 (7.0)
Covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing 1008 (58.6)
Avoid sharing dishes 107 (6.2)
Washing hands after touching items in public places 61 (3.5)
Closing windows at home 98 (5.7)
Closing windows during public transportation (bus, taxi) 78 (4.5)
By vaccination 115 (6.7)
By isolating TB patients 78 (4.5)
Others 54 (3.1)

**Know about anti-TB vaccine**

No 391 (22.7)
Yes 993 (57.7)
No idea 336 (19.5)

**Heard of MDR-TB**

No 884 (51.4)
Yes 836 (48.6)

**Heard of Latent TB**

No 1540 (89.5)
Yes 180 (10.5)

*Others: Demon, Spoiled soil, Malnutrition, poor hygiene; total is: All students

DOTS: Directly Observed Treatment Short Course program