

Table 3 Response rates for medics, comparing medical students and paramedics, on knowledge statements about tuberculosis (TB)

Variable	% correct response		P-value ^a	OR	(95% CI)
	Medical students (n = 105)	Paramedics (n = 37)			
<i>Knowledge factors</i>					
An AIDS patient could be infected with the agent causing TB even if Mantoux test is negative	56	41	0.11	1.85	(0.86–3.96)
Two-weeks treatment with antibiotics ensures cure of TB	94	100	0.14	0.00	–
<i>Mycobacterium</i> could be dormant for many years and get reactivated	87	65	0.00	3.48	(1.45–8.39)
Protection against TB can be established by chemoprophylaxis	43	59	0.09	0.52	(0.24–1.11)
There are > 30 million deaths/year because of TB infection worldwide	58	68	0.29	0.65	(0.30–1.44)
All immigrants to Oman should be screened for <i>Mycobacterium</i>	82	78	0.60	1.29	(0.51–3.27)
Incidence of TB in Oman is high	75	92	0.03	0.26	(0.07–0.93)
Oman is a country which is free of TB	99	97	0.44	2.86	(0.17–46.94)
BCG vaccine ensures 100% protection against TB	88	86	0.87	1.09	(0.36–3.31)
Close contact with a patient having TB is harmless	88	89	0.89	0.92	(0.28–3.05)
Simple precautions like wearing mask, washing hands and good ventilation are helpful while taking care of a TB patient	84	81	0.72	1.19	(0.45–3.16)
I feel uncomfortable while talking to a patient with TB	59	46	0.18	1.67	(0.78–3.55)
A patient with TB must not share kitchen tools (plates, spoons, glasses, etc.) with others	38	31	0.45	1.36	(0.60–3.07)
Keeping a patient with TB at home carries the risk of infecting others	75	64	0.20	1.70	(0.75–3.82)
<i>Risk factors</i>					
TB is caused by a virus	84	73	0.15	1.92	(0.79–4.68)
Poor living conditions, crowdedness and refugee camps are good environments for transmission of TB	91	94	0.56	0.63	(0.13–3.05)
HIV epidemic is the main reason behind the new outbreaks of TB worldwide	78	51	0.00	3.38	(1.53–7.47)
You can get TB by drinking raw milk from an infected animal	56	51	0.61	1.22	(0.57–2.58)
The commonest mode of transmission of TB is through inhalation of <i>M. tuberculosis</i> in aerosols and dust	82	78	0.64	1.25	(0.49–3.16)

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(concluded)

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Diagnosis factors					
A 1-week dry cough is suggestive of TB	69	62	0.43	1.37	(0.63–3.00)
Every patient with TB coughs out bloody sputum	57	62	0.59	0.81	(0.38–1.75)
A person could be infected with TB but show no clinical symptoms throughout life	40	25	0.11	2.00	(0.86–4.68)
Disseminated TB does not involve meninges and bones	93	86	0.20	2.19	(0.65–7.37)
TB is only confined to the respiratory tract	90	92	0.80	0.84	(0.22–3.23)
TB is diagnosed using blood smears	57	64	0.49	0.76	(0.35–1.66)
Night fever and sweating are symptoms of patients with TB	72	54	0.04	2.20	(1.01–4.78)
A positive Mantoux test means a definite TB infection	88	91	0.62	0.72	(0.19–2.71)
A tuberculin test is essential to diagnose suspected cases of TB	37	43	0.50	0.77	(0.36–1.65)

OR = odds ratio, the odds of a medical student getting the correct answer versus a paramedic (nurse and technicians).

^aTwo-sided P-value for testing equality of proportions.