

**“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați
Doctoral School of Biomedical Sciences
Doctoral field: Medicine**



Abstract

DOCTORAL THESIS

Depressive disorders in children with tuberculosis

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Series M: Medicine No. 4

Galați, 2024

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Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious-contagious disease caused by the bacteria in the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) family. Generally, MTB infections are localized in the lungs, but they can also affect other parts of the body [1]. In addition, these bacteria can cause asymptomatic infections, known as latent tuberculosis. According to the literature, approximately 10% of latent infections progress to active disease which, if left untreated, has a mortality rate of about 50% [1]. The typical symptoms present in active TB infections are represented by the following: chronic cough, associated or not with muco-sanguinolent expectoration, fever, night sweats and weight loss. MTB infections localized at the level of other organs can cause a wide range of symptoms [1, 2].

Tuberculosis is airborne transmitted from one infected person to another. In the case of active pulmonary tuberculosis, airborne transmission occurs when the infected person coughs, sneezes, spits or speaks [3]. In contrast, people who have latent MTB infection do not spread the disease. The incidence of active infection is higher in immunocompromised, seropositive, and smoking individuals. Active tuberculosis is diagnosed following clinical and paraclinical assessments suggestive for it, such as: imaging investigations either by means of radiographies or computer tomography, examination of body fluids (sputum) by microscope and on culture [3]. Instead, latent tuberculosis is diagnosed based on tuberculin intradermal reaction (IDR to 5UPPD) or blood tests [4, 5].

Tuberculosis prevention involves screening the population that is at increased risk of developing tuberculosis, thus favoring its early detection and, therefore, its proper treatment, as well as vaccination with bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine [4, 5].

Despite the availability of vaccination and chemoprophylaxis for almost 90 and 60 years respectively, tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death worldwide due to an infectious agent, surpassing human immunodeficiency virus / acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) for the first time [4, 5]. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately 10.4 million new cases and 1.8 million deaths from tuberculosis (TB) are annually registered. A third of these new cases, about three million, are not registered within the health system and therefore many of them do not receive proper treatment.

TB treatment requires multiple drugs administered over several months. These long therapeutic treatments pose a challenge for both patients and the healthcare system, especially in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of the disease often far exceeds local resources. In addition, in some areas, the incidence of drug-resistant tuberculosis, which requires longer treatment regimens and with drugs which are more expensive and difficult to tolerate, is increasing.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end the TB epidemic but, unfortunately, the decrease in incidence has been disappointing. Despite advances in TB treatment, there are currently major gaps when it comes to its effectiveness. In addition, at present, multi-resistant TB infection rates are showing an alarming increase globally. It is defined by its resistance to the two major drugs associated with standard treatment against tuberculosis, isoniazid and rifampicin [4, 5].

According to the literature, it is estimated that in 2018 about a quarter of the world's population has latent TB infection. Also, about 1% of the population registers new infections with MTB annually [6].

In 2018, most TB cases were recorded in the following regions: Southeast Asia (44%), Africa (24%) and the Western Pacific (18%). More than 50% of cases were recorded in eight countries: India (27%), China (9%), Indonesia (8%), Philippines (6%), Pakistan (6%), Nigeria (4%) and Bangladesh (4%). The number of new cases each year decreases by about 2% per year [7, 6].

In addition, it is estimated that 10 million people developed active tuberculosis in 2020, resulting in 1.5 million deaths, making them the second leading cause of death from an infectious disease, after COVID-19 [6].

The WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2021 showed how “incidence has decreased due to pandemic-related service disruptions” [8]. According to WHO estimates, 10 million people developed tuberculosis in 2020, but only 5.8 million cases were diagnosed and reported – an 18% decrease compared to 2019, mainly affecting Asian countries [9].

The January 2022 New England Journal of Medicine article reported that although COVID-19 has had devastating effects on every aspect of global health, TB services have been disproportionately affected, with TB mortality rising worldwide for the first time in over 10 years. [9]

Romania reported the highest incidence rates among children under 15 years old: among children aged 0 to 4 years, the incidence rate was 14.1 cases per 100,000, and among those aged 5 to 14 years, the incidence rate was 26.7 cases per 100,000 children.

The period between 10 and 24 years represents a critical period in biological development, but also in the transitions that take place at the social level [10]. During this period, individuals acquire and develop the physical, emotional, cognitive, economic, and social resources that serve as the foundation for their lifelong well-being. Tuberculosis and its treatment can have a negative impact on this period and therefore, it can cause a derailment from the growth and transitions taking place at this stage [11].

The long-term treatment, of at least 6 months for treatment-susceptible tuberculosis or 18-24 months for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), the adverse drug reactions, the stigma and the financial burden of tuberculosis contribute to patient's non-adherence to treatment and to unsuccessful treatment results [12].

School disruption, the physical, psychological, and cognitive effects of illness and treatment, and household poverty can have an impact on a child's development, his/her educational level, and lifelong economic and work prospects. In the worst case, a TB diagnosis can lead a family into a cycle of poverty, which can be perpetuated through generations [13].

The entire study underlying this work was conducted following a phased model.

The first phase involved the selection of patients aged 7-18 years with a diagnosis of tuberculosis. All information on the subjects was obtained from the archives of the Pulmonology Hospital in Galati.

The next stage involved the analysis of the group of patients, with their final selection, resulting a group of 190 subjects and the follow-up of all socio-demographic, diagnostic (clinical and paraclinical), but also therapeutic characteristics to define the elements that can have an influence on their evolution.

The third phase involved the consecutive grouping of respondents into study subgroups, based on specific characteristics, comparative statistical analysis and clinical, paraclinical and therapeutic characteristics.

The last phase represents in fact the final goal of this work, namely the elaboration of an algorithm for diagnosis, treatment, follow-up, and prevention for depressive disorders in pediatric patients, depending on their age, symptoms, and TB characteristics.

Three studies had been performed in this paper: the study of clinical-paraclinical epidemiological and treatment peculiarities, the study **on the incidence of depressive disorders in pediatric patients with TB and the study of risk factors / potential influence of depressive disorders in the pediatric patient with TB.**

The study of clinical-paraclinical epidemiological and treatment peculiarities in the patients enrolled in the study group evaluates the epidemiological peculiarities present in the group, both clinically and paraclinically. Therefore, the rate of using the clinical and paraclinical investigation methods, the results provided by them, the personal pathological history, the reasons for presentation, the vaccination status, the stage of the disease at the time of registration will be statistically evaluated. Also, the distribution of the research group had been assessed according to its socio-demographic peculiarities, such as:

- ✧ Distribution by sexes of the research group
- ✧ Distribution by origin environment
- ✧ Distribution by age groups
- ✧ Distribution by weight of the group.

For an easier understanding of the conclusions offered by this chapter, we will review the most important ones, as follows:

- ✧ From the point of view of the origin environment, it will be noted that the majority (70.53%, n=134) of the subjects included in this study group came from rural areas, while only 29.47% (n=56) came from urban areas.
- ✧ According to the distribution by sexes of the study group, it will be concluded that most of the subjects included in this study group were male (54.21%, n=103), while the remaining 45.79% (n=87) were female, which suggests a quasi-equal distribution vis-à-vis their sex.

- ✧ Most subjects (49.47%, n=94) included in this study group were aged between 15 and 18 years, 29.47% (n=56) were aged between 11 and 14 years, and 21.05% (n=40) were aged between 7 and 10 years.
- ✧ Another socio-demographic characteristic of interest for the research was the weight of the subjects. With regard to this parameter, the following were concluded: the average weight was 47.57 to which a standard deviation of 17.174 is associated; the distribution of the group by weight is almost Gaussian, with a skewness asymmetry index of 0.608, signifying a slight positive asymmetry, and a Kurtosis vaulting index of 0.744; within the histogram, the curve is subtly leptokurtic.
- ✧ Performing the Pearson correlation at two ends also demonstrated statistically the existence of a dependence between the variable defined as the age of the subjects and their weight (with a correlation of .72, indicating a large effect size ($p < .001$, 95.00% CI = [.65, .79]).
- ✧ Most subjects must travel less than 50 km to access medical services.
- ✧ Most subjects had no personal pathological history, i.e., 73.2% (n=139).
- ✧ Also, its purpose was to identify the patients who came to the health facility following an epidemiological context, totaling 95.79% (n=182).
- ✧ One of the objectives of this research paper was to identify the main accusations that led to the presentation of the subjects in the health facilities. Therefore, it can be observed that the main reason for presentation was a TB contact (95.79%, n=182).
- ✧ From the point of view of paraclinical information associated with the group in question, it is noted that 18.42% (n=35) of the subjects had inflammatory syndrome, while most subjects did not have anemia syndrome (91.05%, n=173). BK sputum examinations performed to identify BK were performed in 41.05% (n=78) of cases; most subjects did not undergo ADA titration (97.89%, n=186). Biochemical evaluation of pleural puncture fluid revealed the presence of lymphocytes in 65% and 55% in 1.58% (n=3) of cases. Also, the puncture fluid was examined for the presence of BK, thus, 1.58% (n=3) of the subjects showed a negative BAAR result. Within the group, the intradermal reaction was used in 85.8% (n=163) of cases, in which case the following are highlighted: the mean IDR value is 11.14 with a standard deviation of 5.553, the distribution curve shows a shift to the right,

compared to the normal, Gaussian distribution; the distribution within the group is platykurtic, and cases are rarer at the base of the histogram curve.

- ✧ The mean value of the presentations is 4.77 with a standard deviation of 2.651; the distribution within the group is leptokurtic and the cases are rarer at the base of the histogram curve.
- ✧ From an imaging point of view, radiological examinations of chest X-ray- and chest CT-type were used. The vast majority (93.68%, n=178) of subjects included in this study group performed at least one chest X-ray, while the use rate of computed tomography was approximately inversely proportional to the use rate of chest X-ray. Specifically, 94.21% (n=179) did not perform CT.
- ✧ Few subjects underwent pleural puncture (2.63%, n=5). An analysis of Pearson correlation between the number of chest CT investigations and the number of presentations was performed. Cohen's standard was used to evaluate the strength of the relationship, where coefficients between .10 and .29 represent a small extent of the effect, the coefficients between .30 and .49 represent a moderate extent of the effect, and the coefficients above .50 indicate a considerable extent of the effect. The correlation result was examined based on an alpha value of .05. A significant positive correlation was observed between the number of chest CT investigations and the number of presentations, with a correlation of .187, indicating a small extent of the effect ($p = .010$, 95.00% CI = [.04, .31]). This suggests that as the number of chest CT investigations increases, the number of presentations tends to increase.
- ✧ The most frequent pathological variation of TB infection is Primary occult TB, most subjects presenting this type of infection (81.58%, n=155), followed by secondary tuberculosis, in a percentage of 11.05% (n=21); primary tuberculosis associated with adenopathy was found in 5.26% (n=10) of cases, while only 2.11 (n=4) had TB pleurisy.
- ✧ Most subjects were included in this study group at disease onset (98.95%, n=199).
- ✧ In terms of pharmacological treatment, hydrazide treatment was predominantly chosen (81.58%, n=155). The next most used treatment was DOT cat 1, used in a proportion of 16.84% (n=32) in the group. 1.58% (n=3) were treated in the

continuation phase of DOT. Of the 190 subjects, most showed good compliance to the treatment, 88.42% (n=168) of them did not abandon the treatment.

- ✧ It is observed that more than half of subjects (83%, n=157) had complete reassessment (all 3 appointments), while 11% (n=22) had incomplete reassessment (T0 and T1), 6% (n=6) had only T0 evaluation without reassessment.

All the aforementioned data are general information on the distribution of patients in the research group. An extremely important study element that outlined the research peculiarity of this chapter was represented by the identification of statistical peculiarities of correlation between epidemiological, treatment and socio-demographic variables.

As first intent, the particularities of the treatment used and of the epidemiological and socio-demographic variables were analyzed, mainly by performing Chi-square independence tests.

The hypothesis of an interdependence between the age of the subjects and the chosen treatment was evaluated, but the result suggested their independence.

The Chi-square test was used to demonstrate whether a dependency relationship exists between the TB Type and Environment variables, but the Chi-square test results were not significant based on an alpha value of .05, $\chi^2(21) = 1.620$, $p = .660$, suggesting that the variable defined as Type of TB and Environment shows no statistically significant correlations.

The same type of Chi-square test was also used to assess the degree of dependence between the type of TB and the sex of the subjects, but the results were not statistically significant ($p = .173$). Instead, it is important to mention that statistical significance ($p < 0.001$) was determined between the type of TB detected in subjects and their PPH.

The causal relationship between the type of treatment chosen and the type of TB disease identified was then investigated; the Chi-square test results were significant, based on an alpha value of 0.05, $\chi^2(63) = 202,700$, $p < 0.001$, suggesting that the Treatment variable and the TB type are related.

It was subsequently observed that treatment abandonment occurred only with hydrazide treatment, Chi-square test results were not significant based on an alpha

value of .05, $\chi^2(3) = 5.618$, $p = .060$; suggesting that the two variables could be independent of each other.

In order to corroborate all the information presented above, research focusing on the type of TB found in the group and the used investigations was initiated. The data obtained were centralized as follows:

- ✧ Statistically significant dependencies were found between TB type and the existence of the inflammatory syndrome ($p = .000$) but also of the anemic syndrome ($p = .000$)
- ✧ Chi-square test results were significant, based on an alpha value of .05, $\chi^2(42) = 45.193$, $p = .000$, suggesting that TB Type and BK Sputum are related.
- ✧ Chi-square test results were significant, based on an alpha value of .05, $\chi^2(21) = 39.046$, $p < .001$, suggesting that TB Type and the Changes in blood count lines are related.
- ✧ Chi-square test results were significant, based on an alpha value of 0.05, $\chi^2(20) = 47.059$, $p < 0.001$, suggesting that TB Type and ADA are related.
- ✧ Chi-square test results were significant, based on an alpha value of .05, $\chi^2(21) = 12.699$, $p = .005$, suggesting that TB type and IDR are statistically related.
- ✧ Chi-square test results were significant, based on an alpha value of .05, $\chi^2(42) = 33.424$, $p = .000$, suggesting that TB type and SLT common flora are related.
- ✧ There were no statistically significant differences suggesting dependence between the type of TB of the subjects and the collection/results of nasal and pharyngeal exudates. The p value $< .001$ defines the existence of statistically significant differences between the type of TB affectation and the performance of pleural puncture.
- ✧ Instead, from the point of view of performing radiological investigations, the existence of statistically significant differentiation relationships between performing the chest CT and the type of TB pathology was confirmed according to the Chi-square test (based on an alpha value of 0.05, $\chi^2(21) = 58.854$, $p < 0.001$), but not with performance of chest radiographies ($p = 0.352$).

The second study conducted is **on the incidence of depressive disorders in pediatric TB patients.**

Major depressive disorder is a leading cause of chronic disability (and of mortality, worldwide [205, 206]. Many of the consequences on health associated with depression are due to the fact that this disorder predisposes and exacerbates other chronic medical conditions, including diseases related to the vegetative symptoms of depression, such as obesity and diabetes [207, 208]. Importantly, the vegetative symptoms to which these conditions are most closely related, namely appetite and weight modification, are not shared by all patients with depression. Patients with major depressive disorder exhibit marked appetite heterogeneity, with approximately 48% of depressed adult patients experiencing depression-related decreases in appetite, while approximately 35% exhibiting depression-related increases in appetite [209].

The clinical literature also suggests that irritability could be a significant subtyping variable in major depressive disorders, and their likelihood is higher in women and young people. They are also associated with more severe depression, lower functional status and quality of life and have a history of at least one suicide attempt. These differences could be of considerable importance, as irritability with anger attacks might be present in more than one-third of patients with major depressive disorder [210, 211, 212].

One of the most common residual symptoms of a partially resolved depression is fatigue. Broadly defined, fatigue symptoms can affect the physical, cognitive, and emotional function, the school and work performance, disrupt social and family relationships, and increase healthcare use. In addition, some of the medications used to treat major depressive disorders can induce fatigue as a side effect.

Several studies have demonstrated underlying personality characteristics that are associated with patients with affective disorder in general and patients with major depressive disorder specifically. These studies described personality characteristics associated with major depressive disorder, including high levels of neuroticism, decreased extroversion (i.e., increased introversion), increased avoidance of evil, increased fatigability, histrionic traits, hostility, tendency to worry, strain, shyness, fear, a rigidity or perspective related to habits, greater intolerance to ambiguity, a tendency to be moved by feelings, being prone to guilt, perfectionist, low sociability,

lacking self-confidence, having a pessimistic perspective, low emotional stability and low objectivity [213, 214, 215]

The summary tables were structured based on the information which includes the characteristics of 190 patients aged 7–18 years and a certain diagnosis of TB, investigated, treated, and monitored at the Pulmonology Hospital in Galati and TB Dispensaries in Galati, Tecuci and Tg Bujor.

The totality of the information obtained from summarizing the subjects' observation sheets served as variables within the final summary table. Thus, sampling lists were made by excluding cases that did not comply with the inclusion criteria and, subsequently, subdividing the main group according to age categories, main diagnosis, presence of heart disease and personal pathological history, as well as clinical data on the status of vital functions and therapeutic attitude. The data thus obtained was entered into a summary table, more precisely Excel table, from the Microsoft Office 365 package, version 2019. Within this table, the data has been filtered according to different criteria. Subsequently, the statistical analysis performed on these data was performed using SPSS software version 24, with which causal relationships and existing correlations between variables that will be described later in this paper were studied.

The statistical study conducted within this doctoral paper addressed aspects of both descriptive and analytical statistics. Descriptive statistics were used to classify and synthesize the data obtained. Through it, existing information is concentrated, and statistical indicators specific to it express the characteristics and trends of the studied parameters.

Descriptive statistical indicators were calculated and analyzed for all variables where this calculation approach was considered useful. The indicators used to develop this type of statistical analysis are the following: amplitude, dispersion, standard deviation, mean square deviation and dispersion, Kurtosis index, mean, median, minimum, and maximum value.

The graphic representation in this paper was made with the help of pie graphs, histograms, scatterplots and QQ plots.

Chi-square dependency tests, Pearson correlations, and ANOVA tests were used to evaluate the statistical relationship between the different variables recorded within the group.

This subchapter evaluates the incidence of depressive disorders in pediatric TB patients. The conclusions drawn in this chapter treat distinctly and in stages the steps taken by the attending physician to establish the suspicion of depressive disorder in this group of subjects. Initially, the most essential element of statistical analysis was defined by assessing the incidence of anamnesis applicability, as well as by determining the patient reevaluation spectrum. Thus, it was observed that an overwhelming percentage of patients (99.5%) benefited from detailed anamnesis when coming to the Galati Pulmonology Hospital, but also to the assigned dispensaries.

In the statistical analysis of this chapter, it was assumed that pediatric depression should be assessed in the context of precipitating factors, stressors, and academic, social and family functioning. These factors will guide appropriate intervention, including a treatment plan that targets circumstances that maintain depression and put the teen at risk for future episodes. It will be noted that most subjects (n = 157) benefited from complete reassessment, meaning the initial detailed anamnesis, followed by two reassessments (at T1, respectively at the time of performing the CDI).

It will be observed that 90% of the subjects are classified as a patient with the potential for desolation of depressive disorders (of varying degrees and severities) from the moment of diagnosis (at the time of T0) until the completion of therapy. At T1, however, this time, there is no longer a 100% predominance of affirmative answers to the ten questions. The rate of suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence in patients at T1 decreased by approximately 15.8% compared to the value obtained at T0.

To assess the incidence of depressive disorders within the group, parameters considered significant in the development of psychiatric pathologies, both individually and in their relationships, were evaluated. Thus, the incidence of depressive disorders was delineated comparatively, at T0 and T1, respectively.

Detection T0	Detection T1 (in evolution)	Evolutive conclusions
Most subjects presented the alteration of the general state or negative disposition (78.95%, n=150)	92.78% (n=167) of subjects experienced altered general mood or negative mood	An increase in the prevalence of this manifestation can be observed between the two times of the assessment
Most subjects reported problems in their personal and/or family lives (91.58%, n=174)	35% (n=63) of subjects reported these problems	It is observed a decrease in the prevalence of problems in personal and/or family life
48.95% (n=93) of subjects claim to feel inefficient	52.78% (n=95) of subjects show this manifestation	A quasi-equal distribution is observed, with a discrete decrease in the parameter at T1
73.16% (n=139) show low self-esteem	68.89% (n=124) had low self-esteem at the moment T1	Approximately 6% reduction in symptoms
most subjects experienced irritability at the moment T0 of the examination (84.21%, n=160)	45% (n=81) experienced irritability	An extremely significant decrease in the incidence rate of irritability (decrease by approximately 50%)
at the moment T0 of the assessment, most subjects presented fatigue (57.89%, n=110)	59.44% (n=107) presented this manifestation	There is a decrease in the prevalence of fatigue within the group
most subjects experienced insomnia at the moment T0 (57.37%, n=109)	42.22% (n=76) experienced insomnia upon reevaluation	Decrease in the prevalence of insomnia by about 20 percent
They experienced decreased appetite (70.53%, n=134)	57.22% (n=103) of subjects experienced a decrease in appetite	Reduction of symptoms by approximately 20%
most subjects (70%, n=133) were free of addictions or substance use at the moment T0	0.56% (n=1) of subjects experienced addictions or substance use	A significant decrease in prevalence is observed
at the moment T0, most subjects experienced introversion (70.53%, n=134)	76.67% (n=138) have shown introversion or signs indicating this trait	There is a slight increase in prevalence (about 6%)
In 90.00% (n=171) of subjects, suspicion of depressive disorders was identified	suspicion of depressive disorders was identified in 74.21% (n=141) of subjects; in 5.26% (n=10) of subjects, T1 reassessment was not performed	Reducing the suspicion of depressive disorders by approximately 15%

Next, the statistical analysis will be centered on presenting statistically significant conclusions, the evolution of subjects in terms of depression incidence, comparatively, between the two examination times (T0 and T1, respectively). For a more concise presentation of the data, we will outline a table similar to the previous one, identifying the *sig* indices, as well as the conclusions dependent on each parameter analyzed in these questionnaires.

Name of the analyzed item	Value of <i>sig</i> index (Chi-square test)	Statistical conclusion
General condition is affected	p = .256	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Problems in personal life	p = .203	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Inefficiency	p = .475	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Low self-esteem	p = .085	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Irritability	p = .229	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Fatiguability	p = .846	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Insomnia	p = .845	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Decrease in appetite	p = 0.034	Statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Additions / substance use	p = .500	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups
Introversion	p = .655	No correlation significant from statistical point of view exists; no statistically significant differences exist between the two groups

As a conclusion of this statistical analysis, an analysis of the Pearson correlation was performed between the total number of items present following the execution of T0 questionnaire and T1, respectively. Cohen's standard was used to evaluate the strength of the relationship, where coefficients between .10 and .29 represent a small extent of the effect, coefficients between .30 and .49 represent a moderate extent of the effect, and coefficients above .50 indicate a considerable extent of the effect [186]. The correlation result was examined based on an alpha value of .05. A significant positive correlation was observed between T0 - *Number of items present* and T1 - *Number of times present*, with a correlation of .249, indicating a moderate extent of the effect (p = .001, 95.00% CI = [.37, .59]). This suggests that as T0 *Number of items present* increases, T1 *Number of present times* tends to increase.

Number of items which received an affirmative answer (ANOVA tests)	Data analyzed	T0	T1
Origin environment	Value of p index	p=.391	p=.006
	Conclusion	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
PPH	Value of p index	p=.526	p=.000
	Conclusion	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
Sex	Value of p index	p=.568	p=.738
	Conclusion	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
Age groups	Value of p index	p=.061	p=.658
	Conclusion	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
Distance towards medical services	Value of p index	p = .406	p=.061
	Conclusion	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
Abandonment of therapy	Value of p index	p=.002	p=.856
	Conclusion	There were significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
Type of TB pathology	Value of p index	p=.003	p=.748
	Conclusion	There were significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable
Treatment	Value of p index	p=.024	p=.588
	Conclusion	There were significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable	There were no significant differences depending on the levels found in the analyzed variable

From the point of view of evaluating the decision to conduct the CDI questionnaire, by reference to the conclusions obtained after calculating the number of affirmative items in T0, respectively T1, the following conclusions are identified:

- ✧ CDI was applied to 83.15% of the total study group, n = 158 subjects, of which, most patients (n = 140) showed suspicion of further development of depressive disorders.

- ✧ The value of the *sig* index obtained from the Chi-square test in relation to the conclusions obtained at T0 (*sig* = .155) demonstrates that there are no statistically significant differences between those suspected of developing depressive disorders at T0, respectively those performing the CDI.
- ✧ At the same time, performing the Chi-square test reveals a *sig* index lower than the reference value (*sig* = .000*), which is why it can be concluded that the decision of the attending physician to perform the CDI was dependent (from a statistical point of view) on the conclusion of the T1 reevaluation.
- ✧ The decision to perform the CDI correlates with 8 of the T0 items, so we can say that if we have over the value allowed for the 7 items, there will be an increased risk of developing depressive disorders, so it is necessary to perform the CDI.
- ✧ The decision to perform the CDI correlates with 4 of the T1 items, so from our point of view, we cannot predict the performance of CDI ONLY by the T1 result, as the phased testing must be performed (T0 then T1).

In **studying the risk factors / potential influence of depressive disorders in the pediatric TB patient, we used the CDI**, a valuable tool in a multitude of environments among which the most common are schools, clinics, ambulatories, psychiatric hospitals, child protection services and private practice offices. Specialized studies confirm that this questionnaire can be used for many purposes, among which we mention the clinical research, but also its use as screening, part of a comprehensive evaluation.

It is important to remember that performing this test is subject to fundamental ethical requirements regarding informed consent and post-test feedback. In the case of the present clinical research, we performed this type of testing in the presence of legal guardians, being a pediatric population. The assessor applied the test, after explaining in advance the reason for the test, respectively providing general information about the implications of this test. Subsequently, the results obtained were presented to the patients, respectively to their legal guardians and answers were provided to the questions received from them, as well as subsequent management indications were offered.

Children's Depression Inventory (CDI) [182] is constantly quoted in literature as one of the most valued tools to identify depressive symptoms in children and adolescents [240, 241, 242].

The literature confirms that over three-quarters of the studies using self-reporting measures have used CDI. However, although CDI is a good indicator of self-reported distress in children and has been reported as a good screening measure for depression [243, 242], some studies have demonstrated that it does not have adequate sensitivity and specificity as a depression screening measure [244, 245, 246, 247].

Specialized studies, corroborated with the results obtained from conducting clinical trials / research in the field, confirm that a key problem in assessing the predictive validity of an instrument (for a particular disorder) is defined by establishing the limit point. For CDI, Kovacs [182] suggests using a cut-off point of 12 or 13 for homogeneous (e.g., clinical) samples. A cut-off point below this value is supported by several studies quoted by Kovacs [248, 249, 250].

However, it is important to remember that in a study consisting of a total group of 621 Chinese adolescents, Chan [240] found that a cut-off point of 20 was a better option to identify depressive symptoms in his sample. Donnelly [251], Helsel and Matson [252] present another option by selecting depressed subjects based on a standard deviation higher than the average CDI.

In this study, the present clinical research focused on detecting indicators that possess statistical significance, aiming to expose the risk factors, or those with potential influence on the subsequent occurrence of depressive disorders in the pediatric patient diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis.

We will expose the statistically significant correlations, by concomitant reference to a series of individual characteristics of the subjects enrolled in the study group as follows:

- ✧ socio-demographic peculiarities.
- ✧ scalar variables, such as subject's weight at its registration, their height, as well as their body mass indices.
- ✧ peculiarities of detecting tuberculosis infection, among which we mention the existence of a TB contact in history, or even herederocolateral history of lung diseases.

- ✧ reference to the conclusions obtained from applying the questionnaires mentioned above, both at the time of patient takeover (T0) and at the subsequent reassessment at three months (T1).

This last statistical analysis study aims at issuing hypotheses / conclusions on the risk factors or on the factors having a potential of influence on the incidence of depressive disorders in pediatric patients diagnosed with TB.

The Children's Depression Inventory (CDI) [182] is consistently quoted in the literature as one of the most highly regarded tools to identify depressive symptoms in children and adolescents [240, 241, 242]. We will remind you from the beginning that specialized studies confirm that this questionnaire can be used for many purposes, such as clinical research, but it is also noted its use as screening, part of a comprehensive evaluation:

- ✧ From the point of view of the indicator called "negative disposition scale", it will be noted that at the level of the group a MV of 4.18 points is obtained, with an associated standard deviation of 2.50.
- ✧ Interpersonal problems are characterized by an average score of 2.16 points with SD equal to 1.72 points.
- ✧ An approximately equal value is detected in the case of the variable that analyzes the degree of inefficiency of the subjects (MV 3.01 points, with an SD of 1.97 points).
- ✧ Low self-esteem is defined by values of descriptive parameters such as MV of 5.37 and SD of 3.20.
- ✧ Low self-esteem is a scalar variable defined as MV of 2.77, SD 1.36.

The total value of points obtained from performing CDI is characterized in terms of central trend by a MV equal to 17.54 points, with a median of 18 points. The dispersion is defined by an SD of 8.70 points, with a wide distribution of values between a minimum of 0 points and a maximum value of 44 points. The distribution represented by the histogram is once again homogeneous, with the appearance of a normal Gaussian curve, with a wide implantation base, with a quasi-symmetric distribution of values, on both sides of the median. The maximum incidental peaks, on either side of the median, are around 22 points and 11 points, respectively.

It should be noted that out of the 158 patients who performed the CDI, 146 subjects showed (following the calculation of the final score) important clinical significance for the spectrum of these psychiatric disorders.

The results obtained from performing bivariate correlations with Pearson indicator between two variables of interest for statistical analysis in this subchapter (we mention here the one called “decision to perform the CDI” – coded under the indicators yes / no; respectively the “CDI clinical significance”; but also the conclusions resulting from the collection of data from the questionnaires applicable to T0 and T1 respectively:

- ✧ It is noted the existence of extremely statistically significant correlations between the decisions to perform the CDI, respectively the age groups of subjects (*sig* = .000*), the conclusions resulting from the questionnaires applied during the reevaluation (*sig* = .000*), but also with the clinical significance of depressive-type disorders, detected when interpreting the CDI results.
- ✧ Extremely significant correlations from a statistical point of view between the variable defined as “CDI clinical significance”, respectively: the age groups of patients (*sig* = .001*), the conclusions obtained at T1 (*sig* = .000*), respectively the decision to perform the CDI (*sig* = 0.000*).

Regarding the decision to conduct the CDI, the following will be noted:

- ✧ It was performed mainly for subjects coming from rural areas (*n* – 110), with a percentage difference of 39.24% compared to the subgroup of patients coming from urban areas.
- ✧ CDI was mainly performed on patients who lived less than 10 km away from the follow-up health facility, but this does not have any statistical significance.
- ✧ Quasi-symmetric distribution of decisions to perform CDI depending on the sex of patients (with discrete predominance among male subjects, *n* = 84).
- ✧ The existence of a distribution characterized by an upward slope, depending on the ages of the subjects, with the consecutive predominance of CDI performed in those aged 15-18 years (*n* = 67), will be observed.

The clinical significance of CDI and the interpretation of the results obtained by the patients shows statistically, but also qualitatively significant distributions, with a series of parameters analyzed as follows:

- ✧ 36.98% percentage difference indicating the association of CDI values corresponding to clinically significant affective disorders scores, with rural origin.
- ✧ Predominance (n = 45) of clinical significance in subjects residing within 10 km of the health facility.
- ✧ Most male pediatric patients have clinically significant CDI scores (n=80).
- ✧ The distributions of clinical significance of CDI tests maintain the same upward distribution relative to patients' age groups as in the decisions to conduct the Children's Depression Inventory (mentioned above).

Thus, the profile of the pediatric patient diagnosed with TB can be drawn, profile presenting the highest occurrence rate of depressive disorder suspicion, subsequently confirmed by analyzing the significance of the CDI questionnaire. It is defined as follows: during the mentioned period of study, the majority stands out in the case of male patients, coming from rural areas (residing less than 50 km from the attending physician – information below the limitation given by the special pandemic situation existing at that time), respectively aged between 15-18 years.

All these data strengthen the previous conclusions, proving through the descriptive statistical analysis that from the point of view of incidental values, we can allow the exposure of defining working hypotheses for the analyzed group, namely:

- ✧ at the level of the group of 190 subjects initially included in the study, it is extremely important to know the socio-demographic characteristics, but also their age expressed in completed years (as all these factors represent in fact the parameters of interest for the present clinical research).
- ✧ after their classification in risk groups defined by the abovementioned individual parameters, scalar variables such as weight expressed in kg and the IDR diameter expressed in mm can be checked.
- ✧ T0 and T1 will be performed in all patients.
- ✧ The points obtained will be added up and then the CDI will be performed.

General conclusions

Following the corroboration of the distribution according to the background and sex of the subjects, it was observed that in rural areas there were mostly male subjects

(40.10%, n=77), while only 30.73% (n=59) were female. In contrast, in urban areas a symmetrical distribution between the two sexes can be observed, with 14.74% (n=28) being male and 14.74% (n=28) being female.

Following the corroboration of age groups with the origin environment, it was observed that in rural areas, most subjects were aged between 15 and 18 years (36.32%, n=69), 18.95% (n=36) between 11 and 14 years, and 15.26% (n=29) were aged between 7 and 10 years. On the other hand, the distribution in the urban area of subjects according to age group showed a quasi-symmetry between the age groups 15-18 and 11-14 years, representing 13.16% (n=25) and 10.53% (n=20) of the studied group, respectively. The subjects aged between 7 and 10 years from urban areas represented the lowest percentage of the study group (5.79%, n=11).

There are correlations between all items from T0 and all those from T1, as well as between the variables defined as Conclusions T0/T1 and the decision to perform the CDI.

The fact that at the time T0, there was 100% predominance of affirmative replies has led to several subsequent implications, among which we recall the following:

- ✧ It is hypothesized that it is not the mere exposure of the pulmonary TB diagnosis to the pediatric patient that determines (by being directly and solely responsible) the depressive disorder.
- ✧ It will often be observed that isolation / self-isolation of the subject (prior to issuing the diagnosis of certainty), the existence of associated disorders (inefficiency, insomnia, decreased appetite), detection of family dynamics disorders, these corroborated factors aggravate the psychological status of the patient.
- ✧ The fact that approximately 90% of young people (older children, pre-adolescents, but especially adolescents) are at risk of developing depressive disorders, often due to the individual/environmental peculiarities they face daily.

In the case of the questionnaire performed at T1, a new distribution is noted, which allows working hypotheses to be issued again, as follows:

- ✧ It can be suspected that, at T1, more precisely, 3 months after the initial evaluation, some of the patients enrolled in the study group showed improvements (at least from a subjective point of view) of the depressive-type disorders.

✧ The decrease in the incidence of affirmative answers may also be due to an extremely simple fact: as mentioned in the literature, the mere knowledge of a diagnosis of certainty, determines the subject to acquire the necessary materials for initiating healing, with consequent relief of symptoms.

From the point of view of suspicions on occurrence of affective disorders at the initial evaluation, respectively at the T1 reevaluation, the following will be highlighted:

- ✧ The average age in years is 14 years, in both cases.
- ✧ The patients recorded an average number of 5 presentations to the treating physician for evaluation / reevaluation until these suspicions were established.
- ✧ The average weight of the subjects expressed in kg, was 48 kg (for those suspected since T0 was performed) and 59 kg (for those for which T1 was also performed).
- ✧ The mean value of IDR expressed in mm was 11 mm for both categories of patients.
- ✧ For both groups of subjects, an average number of 2 cardiopulmonary radiographies were performed, until this suspicion was established.
- ✧ Oxygen saturations, established in atmospheric air, maintained an average value of 98%.
- ✧ The mean number of items that were identified as affirmative answers for T0 and T1 questionnaires is 6 items.
- ✧ The total (mean) CDI score for patients who may be at risk of further depressive disorder was 18 points, distributed as follows:
 - Negative disposition scale: 4-point MV for both situations.
 - Interpersonal problems with a 2-point MV.
 - Inefficiency as an indicator recorded a Mean Value of 3 points.
 - Anhedonia was defined by an average value of 5 points for the subgroup of those who performed T0 and 6 points for those in the T1 category.
 - Low self-esteem was defined as having a mean value of 3 points for both situations discussed above.

The value of the *sig* index obtained after performing the Chi-square test (T0 conclusion – decision to perform CDI) ($sig = .155$) demonstrates that there are no statistically significant differences between those suspected of developing depressive disorders at T0, respectively that of performing the CDI. Thus, it can be issued the null hypothesis at this time that the detection of suspecting a further development of

depressive disorder, at the time of registering the patient, is not a situation that necessarily indicates the need to perform / apply the CDI. As mentioned earlier, the existence of an incidence of affirmative responses greater than 50% to T0 may be partly due to the association of real problems existing in the patient's personal life, an atypical terrain, a (heredocolateral or pathological personal) history of psychiatric / psychological diseases, or simply due to the uncertainty of diagnosis.

At the same time, when the statistical analysis is made, from a descriptive point of view, by reference to the incidents of suspicion of depressive disorders, at the time of repeating the questionnaire, it will be noticed that this time the decision to perform the licensed depression questionnaire was taken for a total number of 158 patients. Of these, only 121 (76.58%) submitted more than half of the answers coded as "yes" when applying the individual questionnaire. This time, however, performing the Chi-square test reveals a *sig* index lower than the reference value (*sig* = .000*), which is why it can be concluded that the decision of the attending physician to perform the CDI was dependent (statistically) on the conclusion of the T1 reevaluation.

Thus, regarding the decision to perform CDI (in the 158 subjects, with the consecutive exclusion of 32 patients), the following details will be observed, which strengthen the management algorithm of the attending physician:

- ✧ It was performed predominantly for subjects coming from rural areas ($n = 110$), with a percentage difference of 39.24% compared to the subgroup of patients coming from urban areas. This is justifiable in part, if we start from the premise that patients coming from rural areas do not have such easy access to medical services (which is why their poor follow-up can "lose sight" of a series of clinical signs indicating the appearance of depressive disorders. It is also known that rural areas, due to the small community of people, can contribute to the desire for social isolation, due to the stigma associated with a diagnosis of this type. Over time, this social isolation, coupled with the loss of activities typical of the rural area (working in the fields, caring for animals, etc.) will accentuate the spectrum of affective disorders.
- ✧ CDI was mostly performed on patients who lived less than 10 km away from the monitoring health facility. Although there is no statistical significance regarding the interaction of these two variables, taking into consideration that the duration of the

study included the SARS CoV-2 pandemic (respectively the state of emergency), a working hypothesis that this made it difficult to monitor the subjects can be issued.

- ✧ Quasi-symmetric distribution of the decisions to perform CDI depending on the sex of patients (with discrete predominance among male subjects, $n = 84$).
- ✧ Previously, we have demonstrated that patients' age groups are a variable determining a significance extremely strong from statistical point of view (at two ends) with the decision to perform CDI. Thus, it will be observed the existence of a distribution characterized by an upward slope, depending on the ages of the subjects, with the consecutive predominance of CDI performed in those aged 15-18 years ($n = 67$).
- ✧ It correlates with 8 of the T0 items, so we can say that if we have over the permissible value for the 7 items, there will be an increased risk of developing depressive disorders, so it is necessary to perform CDI.
- ✧ It correlates with 4 of the T1 items, so from our point of view we cannot predict the performance of CDI ONLY by the T1 result, the phased testing must be performed (T0, then T1).

The clinical significance of CDI, the interpretation of the results obtained by patients shows statistically significant distributions, but also qualitatively with a series of parameters analyzed as follows:

- ✧ 36.98% percentage difference indicating the association of CDI values corresponding to scores with a clinical significance of affective disorders, with rural origin environment.
- ✧ Predominance ($n = 45$) of clinical significance in subjects residing less than 10 km from the health facility.
- ✧ Most male pediatric patients have clinically significant CDI scores ($n=80$).
- ✧ The distributions of clinical significance of CDI tests maintain the same upward distribution relative to patients' age groups, as in the decisions to conduct the Children's Depression Inventory (mentioned above).
- ✧ Based on the underlying summary tables, we performed a prediction score of depressive disorders of the pediatric patient diagnosed with a form of tuberculosis. The score obtained is a reference point for the research in question. It is the basis

of management therapy for TB patients who are at risk of developing depressive disorders.

- ✧ It is important to mention that this score represents a preliminary variant, which will be defined in a final form, as well as the future research perspective, with the expansion of the study group.

Summary table with the distribution of patients in the study group, dependent upon the responses obtained at T0 and T1

		T1 = general condition affected / negative disposition		T1 = problems in personal life / family life		T1 = inefficiency (as the patient considers it = work, studying, etc.)		T1 = low self-esteem		T1 = irritability		T1 = fatigability		T1 = insomnia		T1 = decrease in appetite		T1 = addictions / consumption of substances (alcohol, tabaco, drugs)		T1 = introversion (if the patient is one which is introverted, or if it presents the capacity to initiate / be involved in dialogues, looking square in the eye)		Conclusion T1		
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	The suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence is identified	T1 was not performed
T0=general condition affected / negative disposition	No	4	30	30	4	24	10	9	25	20	14	15	19	29	5	11	23	34	0	12	22	13	21	6
	Yes	9	137	87	59	61	85	47	99	79	67	58	88	75	71	66	80	145	1	30	116	26	120	4
T0 = problems in personal life / family life	No	1	14	12	3	7	8	4	11	10	5	5	10	12	3	13	2	15	0	11	4	5	10	1
	Yes	12	153	105	60	78	87	52	113	89	76	68	97	92	73	64	101	164	1	31	134	34	131	9
T0 = inefficiency (as the patient considers it = work, studying, etc.)	No	5	89	80	14	42	52	28	66	56	38	33	61	48	46	39	55	93	1	19	75	20	74	3
	Yes	8	78	37	49	43	43	28	58	43	43	40	46	56	30	38	48	86	0	23	63	19	67	7
T0 = low self-esteem	No	2	47	32	17	38	11	20	29	27	22	17	32	24	25	23	26	48	1	14	35	16	33	2
	Yes	11	120	85	46	47	84	36	95	72	59	56	75	80	51	54	77	131	0	28	103	23	108	8
T0 irritability	No	2	27	16	13	16	13	17	12	13	16	9	20	13	16	15	14	29	0	10	19	7	22	1
	Yes	11	140	101	50	69	82	39	112	86	65	64	87	91	60	62	89	150	1	32	119	32	119	9
T0 = fatigability	No	5	73	55	23	32	46	23	55	57	21	31	47	44	34	35	43	78	0	13	65	17	61	2
	Yes	8	94	62	40	53	49	33	69	42	60	42	60	60	42	42	60	101	1	29	73	22	80	8

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Abstract of the Doctoral Dissertation
Depressive disorders in children with tuberculosis

		T1 = general condition affected / negative disposition		T1 = problems in personal life / family life		T1 = inefficiency (as the patient considers it = work, studying, etc.)		T1 = low self-esteem		T1 = irritability		T1 = fatigability		T1 = insomnia		T1 = decrease in appetite		T1 = addictions / consumption of substances (alcohol, tabaco, drugs)		T1 = introversion (if the patient is one which is introverted, or if it presents the capacity to initiate / be involved in dialogues, looking square in the eye)		Conclusion T1		
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	The suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence is identified	T1 was not performed
T0 = insomnia	No	5	74	56	23	33	46	23	56	58	21	32	47	45	34	35	44	79	0	13	66	18	61	2
	Yes	8	93	61	40	52	49	33	68	41	60	41	60	59	42	42	59	100	1	29	72	21	80	8
decrease in appetite	No	3	52	32	23	22	33	13	42	31	24	23	32	41	14	30	25	55	0	14	41	14	41	1
	Yes	10	115	85	40	63	62	43	82	68	57	50	75	63	62	47	78	124	1	28	97	25	100	9
T0 addictions / consumption of substances (alcohol, tabaco, drugs)	No	3	53	33	23	23	33	13	43	32	24	24	32	42	14	30	26	56	0	14	42	15	41	1
	Yes	10	114	84	40	62	62	43	81	67	57	49	75	62	62	47	77	123	1	28	96	24	100	9
T0 = introversion (if the patient is one which is introverted, or if it presents the capacity to initiate / be involved in dialogues, looking square in the eye)	No	3	52	32	23	22	33	13	42	31	24	23	32	41	14	30	25	55	0	14	41	14	41	1
	Yes	10	115	85	40	63	62	43	82	68	57	50	75	63	62	47	78	124	1	28	97	25	100	9
Conclusion T0	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	1	17	15	3	10	8	7	11	11	7	6	12	14	4	12	6	18	0	10	8	6	12	1

Cristea (Mihailov) Oana-Mariana
 Abstract of the Doctoral Dissertation
 Depressive disorders in children with tuberculosis

		T1 = general condition affected / negative disposition		T1 = problems in personal life / family life		T1 = inefficiency (as the patient considers it = work, studying, etc.)		T1 = low self-esteem		T1 = irritability		T1 = fatigability		T1 = insomnia		T1 = decrease in appetite		T1 = addictions / consumption of substances (alcohol, tobacco, drugs)		T1 = introversion (if the patient is one which is introverted, or if it presents the capacity to initiate / be involved in dialogues, looking square in the eye)		Conclusion T1		
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	The suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence is identified	T1 was not performed
There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence		12	150	102	60	75	87	49	113	88	74	67	95	90	72	65	97	161	1	32	130	33	129	9

Source: author's contribution

Summary table of the results obtained when performing CDI

		Decision on performing the CDI		Clinical significance of CDI				
		It was not performed.	It was performed.	Without values significant from clinical point of view	The values obtained have a clinical significance	CDI was not performed		
Conclusion T0	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	1	18	3	15	1		
	Suspicion of the depressive disorder occurrence is identified	31	140	9	131	31		
Conclusion T1	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	2	37	8	29	2		
	Suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence is identified	20	121	4	117	20		
	T1 not performed	10	0	0	0	10		
Conclusion T0	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	Conclusion T1	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	0	6	1	5	0

				Decision on performing the CDI		Clinical significance of CDI		
				It was not performed.	It was performed.	Without values significant from clinical point of view	The values obtained have a clinical significance	CDI was not performed
			The suspicion of depressive disorders occurrence is identified.	0	12	2	10	0
			T1 not performed.	1	0	0	0	1
	Suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence is identified	Conclusion T1	There is no suspicion of depressive disorder occurrence	2	31	7	24	2
			Suspicion of the depressive disorder occurrence is identified	20	109	2	107	20
			T1 not performed	9	0	0	0	9

Source: author's contribution

Total value = 9 points, theoretically established threshold value = 4 or 5

At T0:

- ✧ under 25% positive results = 0 points
- ✧ 25-50% positive results = 1 point
- ✧ 50-75% positive results = 2 points
- ✧ above 75% positive results = 3 points

At T1:

- ✧ under 25% positive results = 0 points
- ✧ 25-50% positive results = 1 point
- ✧ 50-75% positive results = 2 points
- ✧ above 75% positive results = 3 points

CDI: 5 items in total

- ✧ if we have under 2 items modified = 1 point

- ✧ 2-3 items modified = 2 points
- ✧ 4-5 items modified = 3 points.

Final score: the reporting to the nine points in total

- ✧ If the value is under 4 points = minor risk of occurrence of affective disorders
- ✧ If the value is between 4 and 6 points = average risk of occurrence of affective disorders
- ✧ If the value is over 6 points = severe risk of occurrence of affective disorders.

Thus, the profile of the pediatric patient diagnosed with TB can be drawn, patient with the highest rate of occurrence of depressive disorder suspicion, subsequently confirmed by analyzing the significance of the CDI questionnaire. It is defined as follows: during the mentioned period of study, it is observed in the case of male patients coming from rural areas (residing less than 50 km from the attending physician – information below the limitation given by the special pandemic situation existing at that time), respectively aged between 15-18 years.

All these data strengthen the previous conclusions, proving through the descriptive statistical analysis that from the point of view of incidence values, we can allow the presentation of working hypotheses defining for the analyzed group, namely:

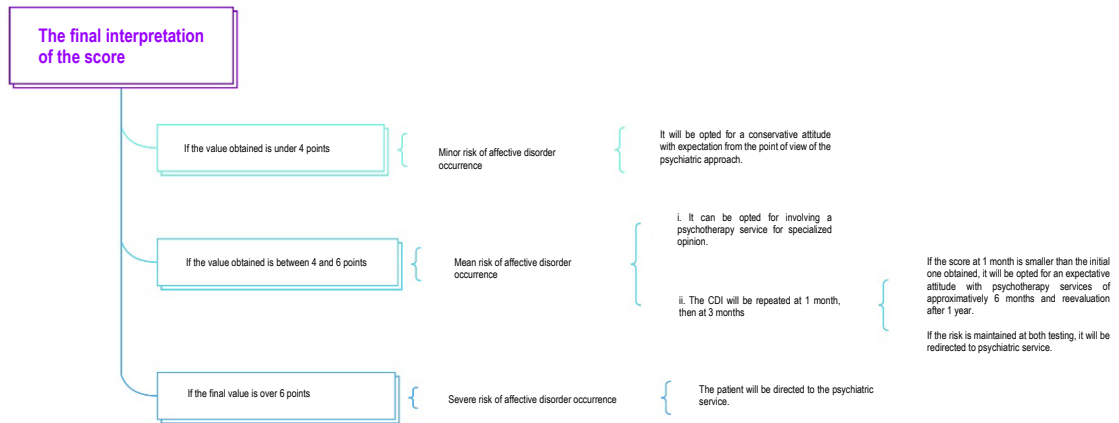
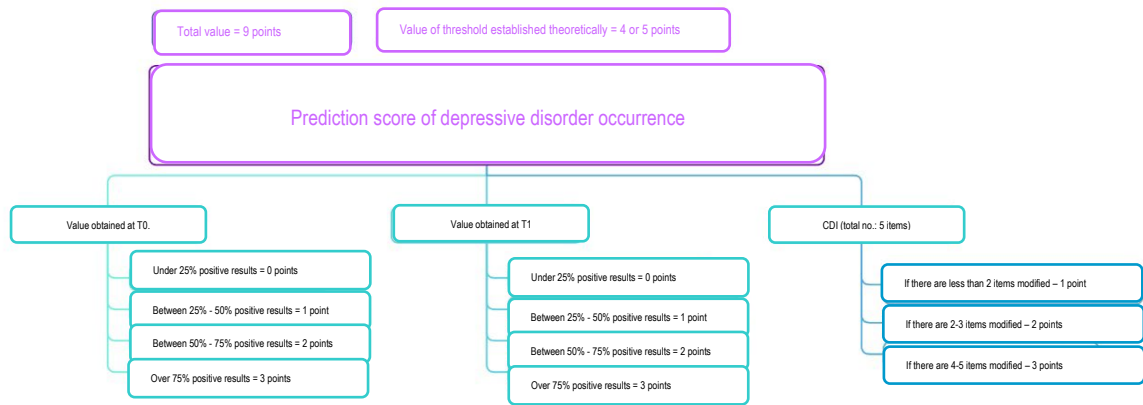
- ✧ At the level of the group of 190 subjects initially included in the study, it is extremely important to know the socio-demographic characteristics, but also their age expressed in completed years (as all these factors are in fact parameters of interest for the present clinical research).
- ✧ After their classification in risk groups defined by the abovementioned individual parameters, scalar variables such as weight expressed in kg and the IDR diameter expressed in mm, can be checked.
- ✧ T0 and T1 will be performed on all patients.
- ✧ The points obtained will be added up and then the CDI will be performed.
- ✧ If the final score value has the values:

- a. **under 4 points** = minor risk of affective disorder occurrence → a conservative attitude, with expectation from the point of view of psychiatric approach, will be chosen.
 - b. **between 4 and 6 points** = average risk of affective disorder occurrence:
 - i. it can be opted for involving a psychotherapy service for specialized opinion.
 - ii. CDI will be repeated after 1 month, and afterwards, after 3 months:
 - If the score at 1 month is lower than the initial one obtained, it will be opted for an expectant attitude, with psychotherapy services of about 6 months and reevaluation after 1 year.
 - If the risk remains in both tests, he/she will be redirected to the psychiatric service.
 - c. **above 6 points** = severe risk of developing affective disorders, the patient will be redirected to the psychiatric service.
- ✧ With all this information at hand, preliminary hypotheses can be made as soon as the subjects are registered. Although, of course, it is important to note that one of the current limitations of research is defined by the size of the analyzed group.

Personal contributions – presenting a pediatric patient management algorithm.



Cristea (Mihailov) Oana-Mariana
 Abstract of the Doctoral Dissertation
 Depressive disorders in children with tuberculosis



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