



Should all patients with Spine TB be routinely tested for HIV?



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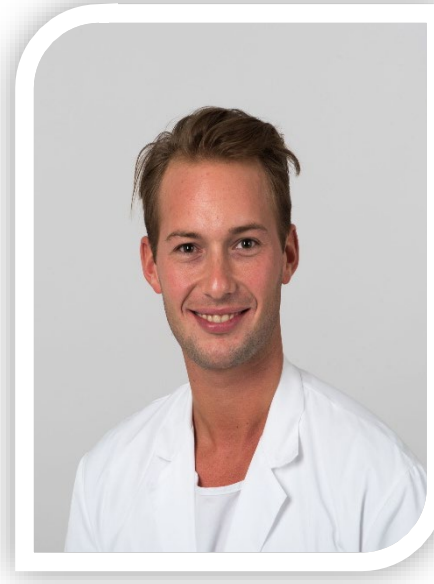
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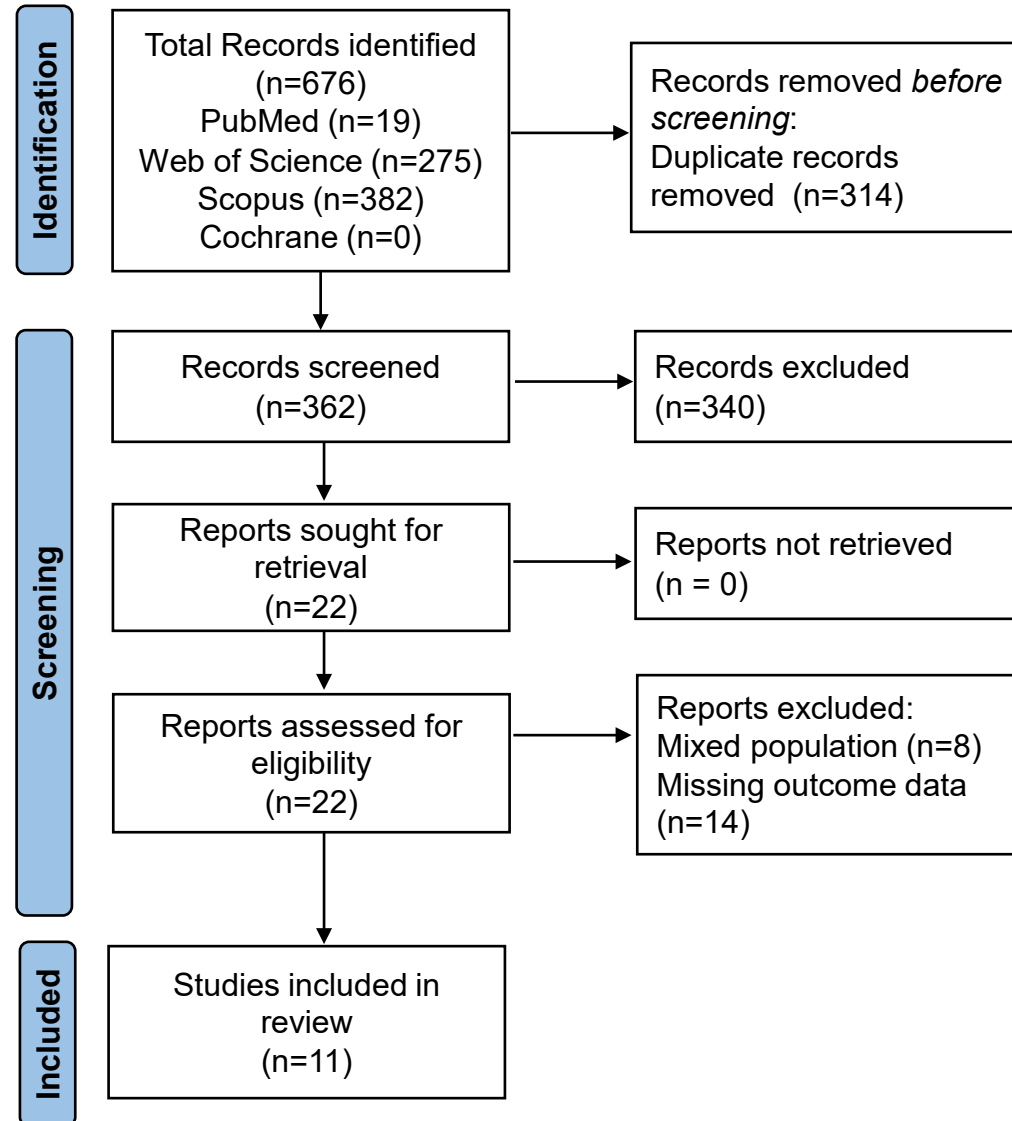


Why is this topic Important

- Spinal TB remains a significant global health concern, particularly in regions with high TB and HIV co-infection rates.
- HIV infection alters the clinical presentation, progression, and management of spinal TB, leading to increased morbidity and diagnostic challenges.
- Studies have demonstrated that HIV-positive individuals experience higher rates of spinal TB, with co-infection posing unique risks such as paradoxical reactions, increased abscess formation, and immune dysfunction.
- While routine TB screening is standard practice, systematic HIV testing in spinal TB patients is not uniformly implemented despite epidemiological evidence supporting its necessity



Literature Review/ Process





Findings from Literature

- Studies have consistently reported high HIV prevalence among spinal TB patients, with co-infection rates ranging from 27% to 76%
- HIV-positive individuals are at significantly higher risk of developing spinal TB, with evidence indicating up to an 11-fold increase compared to HIV-negative individuals
- Diagnostic delays are frequent among HIV-positive spinal TB patients, leading to advanced disease presentation and poorer prognostic outcomes
- These findings underscore the importance of routine screening to facilitate early intervention and prevent late-stage complications.



Question:

❖ Should all patients with Spine TB be routinely tested for HIV?



Response:

- ❖ **Yes, Given the epidemiological evidence, routine HIV screening should be a standard component of spinal TB diagnosis.**



❖ **Vote:** Agree – 98%, Disagree – 0%, Abstain – 2%
(Unanimous Consensus).