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TB Patients Feel Abandoned in Isolation

by Gina Pugliese, RN, MS
Medical News Editor

A recent study published in the *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care* reported the findings from interviews of 18 HIV-infected patients in respiratory isolation for TB in New York City. The survey revealed that the majority of patients often felt lonely and trapped and had disruption of sleeping and eating patterns. The patients also reported feeling stigmatized by the isolation and abandoned by the hospital staff. To improve isolation, the patients suggested increasing the amount of human contact and adding diversions.

The findings of this survey of isolation patients reminds us of the need to consider the patient's perspective in designing strategies to keep TB patients in their respiratory isolation rooms while they are infectious—a key infection control strategy.

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