

## Utilization Digital Health: Opportunities and Challenges in Enhancing Tuberculosis Treatment

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**Abstract.** Digital health interventions hold promise for patient-centered care, as they enable remote monitoring of patients and can be used to easily remind patients to take their medications. This study used a literature review technique with research collecting 30 research publications related to the use, opportunities and challenges of digital health in the treatment of tuberculosis. The literature review technique aims to evaluate and analyze previous research to provide context, show gaps in research, and support arguments for the research to be conducted. Several conclusions from this literature review research include: (1) Digital health has a significant role as an intervention in the management of tuberculosis patients. (2) Digital health offers great opportunities to improve the management and treatment of tuberculosis patients. The opportunity for digital health as an intervention for tuberculosis patients is very promising and can have a significant impact on various aspects of managing this disease. (3) Although digital health offers many opportunities for managing tuberculosis, there are also various challenges that must be faced in its implementation, including: challenges of technology access, patient compliance and engagement, data security and privacy, integration with traditional health systems, costs and funding, quality content and information as well as cultural and language barriers.

**Keywords:** Digital health, Tuberculosis, Role, Opportunities and challenges

### 1. BACKGROUND

Tuberculosis (TB), an infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M.tb), is one of the top 10 deadliest infectious diseases in the world. Tuberculosis (TB) has been considered a global health emergency by WHO since 1993, and TB elimination is a key sustainable development goal target by the United Nations (Boutilier et al., 2022).

The pathogen *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* can easily spread through airborne transmission by coughing or sneezing. In 2019, an estimated 10 million people globally were infected with tuberculosis. Therefore, long-term antibiotic treatment is necessary to control Tuberculosis infection and avoid the spread of the disease. Treatment for active, drug-susceptible Tuberculosis usually takes at least 6 months, while latent tuberculosis infection can take between 1 and 6 months. Even though medicines for tuberculosis sufferers are available, there are still many patients who do not comply with the medical procedures recommended by medical personnel. Many factors influence treatment adherence, such as poor communication between patients and healthcare providers, and socioeconomic issues. Digital health technology is one factor that helps manage patients with tuberculosis by monitoring and supporting their treatment adherence through SMS text message reminders and directly observed therapy videos (Ridho et al., 2022).

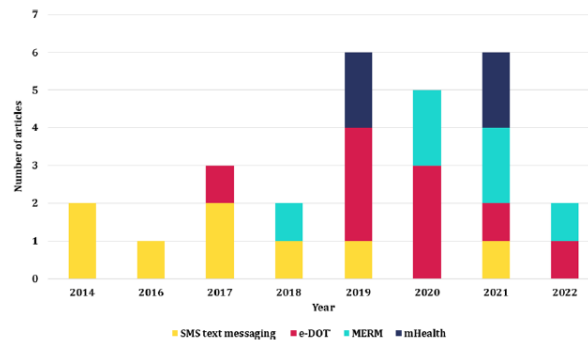
WHO is currently promoting digital adherence technologies (DAT) such as smartphone-based features or strategies, electronic pill boxes or ingestible sensors—as possible facilitators for improving TB treatment adherence in resource-limited settings. However, little research has investigated whether digital adherence technologies are more likely to benefit high-risk patients or, conversely, whether these technologies may be ineffective for such patients or even create intervention-generated inequality by disproportionately benefiting patients who already have a low likelihood of a favorable outcome. unsuccessful (i.e., low-risk patients). Some researchers argue that technology-based health interventions may disproportionately benefit low-risk patients and create intervention-generated inequities, as such individuals may benefit more, and therefore, have higher baseline access to these technologies (e.g., cell phones) or greater ability to use them. On the other hand, if a technology disproportionately benefits high-risk patients, such interventions may help achieve more equitable outcomes and improve health system efficiency, especially if specifically targeted to those patients.

Digital health is the use of information and communication technology in medicine and other health professions to manage disease and health risks and to promote health. Utilizing patient history data recorded digitally can provide more meaningful information for decision making. Digital health has a broad scope and includes the use of devices that can be used including mobile health applications, telehealth, health information technology, and telemedicine. The principles that must be applied in the use of digital health are increasing access to health services, quality of service, and implementing confidentiality of patient medical information. One of the benefits of digital health applications in treating TB patients is support that can increase patient compliance in undergoing treatment until completion (Farhana et al., 2022).

Digital health interventions hold promise for patient-centered care, as they enable remote monitoring of patients and can be used to easily remind patients to take their medications. A number of studies have addressed how to improve medication adherence during treatment using mobile technologies, such as SMS text messages, DOT-directly observed therapy (DOT) video calls and reminder phone calls, and web-based reports. The research results show patient satisfaction, accuracy, acceptable uptake, increased drug adherence, higher levels of treatment success and user acceptance with digital health interventions. The most common types of digital health interventions were SMS text messages and reminder messages (30%), interventions with DOT were 33%; intervention using monitor medication event

reminders (MERM) by 22%, and intervention using mobile applications by 15% (S. Lee et al., 2023).

From research conducted by (S. Lee et al., 2023), the distribution of types of digital health interventions from several research articles can be seen in the following picture:



**Figure 1. Types of digital health interventions (SMS text messaging, e-DOT, MERM and mHealth) from several research articles from 2014-2022**

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### a. Definition of *Digital Health*

Digital Health is the use of digital technology to support health and health services, including the use of software, hardware and data-based services to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment and health management. Digital health includes various technologies such as telemedicine, Electronic Health Records (EHR), mobile health (mHealth), big data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI), and wearable devices.

### b . Utilization of Digital Health in Supporting Treatment of Tuberculosis Patients

Digital health interventions are increasingly being used to support TB treatment around the world. Several digital interventions have the potential to improve treatment adherence by patients. Video-observed therapy (VOT) and medication monitors (MM) technology can increase efficiency, save money and reduce the burden on patients and health workers. VOT was used for treatment observation in London, England, resulting in improved communication between patients and providers. VOT is a useful alternative as a pilot for the use of MM in South Africa and therefore represents a major investment in improving outcomes and saving treatment costs (Ngwatu et al., 2018).

Throughout the world, digital health has experienced rapid development, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Telemedicine, AI, and mHealth are rapidly evolving to meet the need for more efficient and affordable healthcare. Developed countries such as the United

States, United Kingdom, and Singapore have taken the lead in implementing this technology, especially in terms of telemedicine, electronic medical records, and data-driven health.

- a. **Telemedicine:** Telemedicine has become an important solution in countries with large geographic areas or limited access to health services. In countries like the United States, telehealth is used to reach patients in rural or hard-to-reach areas. In the UK, the National Health Service (NHS) is adopting telemedicine technology to reduce patient waiting times and treatment costs.
- b. **Artificial Intelligence (AI):** AI has been applied in various aspects of health, including disease diagnosis, medical imaging, and predictive care
- c. **Mobile Health (mHealth):** Mobile health applications are growing rapidly with functions that include monitoring chronic conditions such as diabetes or hypertension, medication reminders, and remote health consultations. Wearables such as Fitbit and Apple Watch are also used to track users' physical activity and health.
- d. **Data Interoperability and Security:** In many countries, health data interoperability is a major challenge, given the need to securely share data across health institutions. Strict regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in the European Union seek to regulate the increasing privacy and security of patient data in the digital ecosystem.

### **3. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study used a literature review technique with research collecting 30 research publications related to the use, opportunities and challenges of digital health in the treatment of tuberculosis. The literature review technique aims to evaluate and analyze previous research to provide context, show gaps in research, and support arguments for the research to be conducted.

### **4. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **a. Literature Summary Results**

From previous collecting research carried out, 30 published articles were found that were relevant to this research theme which can be summarized as follows:

**Table 1. Summary of Journal Publications Related to the Theme of the Role, Challenges and Implementation of Digital Parenting in Children**

No.	Researcher's name and year	Data Analysis Methods	Research Results
1.	(Shalahuddin et al., 2024)	Literature review	A total of 9 studies used a sample population of adult TB patients (18-30 years), TB patients undergoing Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS), TB patients receiving medical services and TB patients actively receiving treatment. The most influential effectiveness of telehealth in assisting the treatment process for pulmonary TB patients is Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) because the main focus of the DOTS strategy is patient discovery and healing, priority is given to infectious TB patients without neglecting other types of TB.
2.	(S. Lee et al., 2023)	Literature review	From 27 relevant studies and classifying them based on intervention methods, the differences were significant in treatment success and health outcomes. The following interventions were emphasized: SMS text messaging intervention (30%), medication reminders (22%), and web-based direct observation therapy (33%). Digital health technologies significantly promote disease management among individuals and healthcare professionals. However, only a few studies discuss 2-way communication therapy, such as interactive SMS text messages and feedback systems. This scoping review classifies research on digital health interventions (DHIs) for TB patients and shows their potential in terms of TB self-treatment. Digital health interventions (DHIs) are still being developed, and there is limited evidence regarding the impact of digital technology on improving TB treatment compliance. However, it is necessary to encourage patient participation in TB treatment and self-management through two-way communication.
3.	(Nascimento et al., 2023)	Systematic literature review	Infrastructure and technical issues, psychological barriers, and workload-related issues are relevant barriers to comprehensive and holistic adoption of digital health technologies by HP. Instead, implementing training, evaluating HP's perceived usefulness and willingness to use, and multi-stakeholder incentives are important drivers for increasing HP adoption of digital interventions.
4.	(Pradipta et al., 2022)	Qualitative Analysis	From the research results, there were 210 units of meaning from 48 participants and classified them into two main themes: organizational capacity and TBC program activities. The research results identified inadequate human resources, facilities and external coordination as the main obstacles to organizational capacity. Furthermore, barriers were identified related to TB program activities, namely adequate TB case finding, diagnosis, drug supply chain and expenditure management, treatment and monitoring, case recording and reporting, and public-private collaboration.
5.	(Boutilier et al., 2022)	Qualitative Analysis	These DAT-based interventions may improve outcomes among high-risk patients, reducing inequities in the likelihood of unsuccessful treatment outcomes. In resource-limited settings where universal provision of interventions is not feasible, targeting high-risk patients for DAT enrollment is a beneficial strategy for programs involving human support sponsors, allowing them to achieve the highest possible impact for high-risk patients with substantially increased cost-effectiveness ratio.
6.	(Nsengiyumva et al., 2018)	Descriptive analysis	For patients with active TB, drug monitoring and video-observed therapy are projected to lead to substantial (up to 58%) cost savings, in addition to reducing the inconvenience and cost to patients of supervised care visits. For the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection, SMS and treatment monitoring are projected to be the most cost-effective

			interventions. However, all projections are limited by the scarcity of published clinical effect estimates for digital technologies.
7.	(Ngwatu et al., 2018)	Systematic review	Evidence from studies of digital technologies targeting TB is slowly developing. Despite interest in the use of digital technologies to improve care of TB sufferers, reported impacts vary and evidence from implementation studies is sparse. Our findings suggest that certain digital technologies can support TB treatment efforts while reducing patient and provider costs, as well as patient inconvenience. Around the world, patients and providers are increasingly using mobile devices to communicate. Therefore, it is important to understand how technology can be best used to provide better patient-centered treatment support and allocate resources more wisely. Data from ongoing and future studies, including non-inferiority studies, pragmatic trials, and cost-effectiveness analyses, will assist in the optimization of practical approaches. This can include targeting different entry points on the behavior change pathway that have not yet occurred.
8.	(Elmuttalut, 2024)	Descriptive analysis	By understanding the diverse factors that influence adherence, health professionals and policy makers can develop comprehensive interventions to support patients throughout their TB treatment journey. Strategies of meeting individual needs, providing social support, ensuring access to health services, and optimizing treatment delivery can contribute significantly to increasing adherence rates and ultimately achieving successful TB control. We recommend health professionals implement a combination of these interventions to create a comprehensive support system that empowers patients to adhere to their TB treatment regimen, ultimately contributing to successful treatment outcomes and reduction of the TB burden globally.
9.	(Iribarren et al., 2022)	Qualitative Analysis	Among the 56 patients who started TB treatment during the recruitment period, 42 were enrolled in the study. Those excluded had severe illness/hospitalization (5), were under 18 (2), had no access to a cell phone (1), had no WiFi access at home (1), did not return/refused to participate (4), and had incomplete enrollment (it was unclear whether patients were informed about the study) (1). The average age of participants was in the range of 18-79 years with a balanced gender distribution between men and women. The majority of participants were single (60%), did not work (67%), completed high school (33%), never smoked or quit (81%), did not take medication every day (76%), and consumed alcohol once a month or less (71%). The intervention group participants were on average older and more married or with long-term partners.
10.	(Yoeli et al., 2019)	Qualitative Analysis	This digital health intervention can help overcome the shortcomings in the current TB treatment service standards. If extrapolated across Kenya, our intervention has the potential to result in 12,291 additional successful treatments per year. Based on current estimates, this will reduce 329 cases of drug-resistant TB, reduce 1,553 deaths, and save \$24.4 million in health, household, and social service costs. The study conducted large-scale testing of the platform in a randomized trial involving nearly 20% of the population of TB patients in Kenya by using machine learning to develop interventions that provide differentiated support for individuals who would benefit from extra attention and attention.
11.	(Ridho et al., 2022)	Systematic review and meta analysis	The results of the study show that digital health technology interventions can be a promising approach to overcome tuberculosis. However, the interventions performed showed the direction of effect and the extent to which TB treatment adherence and clinical outcomes were improved. Interventions with digital health technology with personalized feedback are needed to provide consistent and beneficial effects on treatment adherence and outcomes in patients with TB.
12.	(Pramono et al., 2023)	Systematic review and	The results of the research found 533 articles, and 21 of them met the criteria for further discussion. Most of the research was oriented towards

		<i>meta analysis</i>	case identification, treatment control and reporting, with descriptive qualitative, mathematical model, crosssectional, experimental, retrospective cohort, case study, prospective randomized controlled, exploratory, research and development. The implementation of mHealth is very effective in people who are at risk of contracting TB, can accelerate the identification of TB cases, treatment and control treatment adherence. Independent application development is needed so that it is able to detect early by risk groups.
13.	(Farhana et al., 2022)	Scoping review	There are 7 articles that meet the inclusion criteria stating that digital health can be a solution in the treatment of tuberculosis patients, especially for countries with inadequate health service resources. 2 types of applications are used as an effort to improve the success of tuberculosis treatment in developing countries, namely short message service (SMS) and video observed therapy (VOT). The use of digital health applications can improve communication between health workers and patients, provide convenience for patients to access cost-effective health facilities optimally, and can increase patient compliance to carry out complete treatment.
14.	(Triana et al., 2023)	<i>Systematic literature review</i>	the 849 studies, we found that 13 met the inclusion criteria. In terms of treatment success, patient compliance and loss to follow-up prevention, telemedicine provides varied results. Most of them give better results but are not significant. Telemedicine makes it easier to detect TB cases, increase TB knowledge and improve patient-health worker relationships. In conclusion, telemedicine can be a promising approach in improving the effectiveness of TB management although the effects of the intervention were found to vary between studies. Further research is needed to be able to evaluate the application of telemedicine more optimally and more widely.
15.	(Jumu, 2023)	Qualitative Analysis	The results of the study show that the PMO program has great support from the families of TB clients, and is willing to be part of the program. It was found that cases of multidrug resistance (26%), ignorance of drug consistency (100%) considering that 5 out of 18 clients were toddlers. Other major challenges are the condition of infrastructure and geography, and the lack of means of communication. In conclusion, the PMO program is considered to provide benefits and is feasible to support the increase in the success of TB eradication programs involving family members.
16.	(Hidayat et al., 2024)	Descriptive analysis	Evaluation and special attention to the implementation of innovations in the implementation of the TOSS-TB program and the BATAS PETIR innovation, as well as the use of technologies such as mHealth, Digital Health, and telemedicine are key to ensuring their continuity and effectiveness. With a deep understanding of the complexity of tuberculosis and continuous innovation, it is expected to make a positive contribution to overcoming global challenges related to this disease
17.	(Mumtaz et al., 2023)	Descriptive analysis	In Australia, the Digital Health Implementation Program emphasizes the importance of engaging stakeholders and addressing infrastructure and training issues for healthcare workers. The WHO Health for Tuberculosis Global Digital Task Force aims to tackle tuberculosis through digital health innovation. Digital tools are used in mental health care, but their effectiveness must be evaluated during development. Oncology supportive care uses digital tools for interventional and surveillance cancer patients, but evaluating their effectiveness can be challenging. Digital health must be evaluated based on the maturity of the technology and the size of its implementation, as well as the quality of the data they provide. To use digital health care technologies safely and effectively, it is important to prioritize evaluation using complex, evidence-based systems with medical frameworks. To address the challenges of implementing digital health, it is important to prioritize ethical research that addresses user consent issues and addresses socioeconomic gaps in access and effectiveness. It is also important to



			consider the impact of digital health on health outcomes and the cost-effectiveness of service delivery.
18.	(Olawade et al., 2024)	Systematic literature review	Telemedicine is effective in preventing MDR-TB in low-resource settings. Current trends in MDR-TB prevention include remote diagnosis and screening, teleconsultation with tuberculosis specialists, adherence support treatment through real-time monitoring and patient education, training and education of healthcare workers, follow-up care through remote monitoring and teleconsultation, and data collection and surveillance using telemedicine data. This trend improves MDR-TB management by Improving access, outcomes, and support of healthcare professionals in resource-constrained settings. Telemedicine has great potential to be improved. MDR-TB health care outcomes. It enables early diagnosis and treatment, rapid follow-up and monitoring, optimal medication adherence through real-time reminders and patient education, and professional guidance and support. Telemedicine provides access to quality healthcare services to remote and underserved patients by overcoming geographical barriers.
19.	(Li et al., 2023)	Systematic review	Given the growing prominence of tuberculosis epidemiology and the issue of compliance with electronic monitors, there is a strong reason to synthesize existing studies through CFIR. The findings and conclusions of the study reveal the achievement and effectiveness of the application of electronic monitors. Further strategies to facilitate the application of electronic monitors will also be explored. This research is essential to support future academic research initiatives.
20.	(Salama & Rizk, 2023)	Literature review	The high number of TB patients, limited access to TB diagnosis and treatment, drug-resistant TB, weak health systems especially in low- and middle-income countries, socioeconomic factors, and lack of political and resource commitment are the main challenges that hinder the successful elimination of tuberculosis. Sustained and coordinated efforts from governments, the private sector, international organizations, and other stakeholders, including increased funding, political factors, and a focus on tackling tuberculosis can be factors influencing TB transmission.
21.	(Kasoju et al., 2023)		Digital health is a rapidly evolving field and DHT provides new opportunities for innovation and growth, and thus transforming medical, pharmaceutical, biotech, and allied fields. In the medical device sector, innovations in the field of smart materials, wearable devices, and AI/ML-based systems are rapidly being introduced for clinical use. In the pharmaceutical sector, the use of digital technology has been widely used through various stages of drug development, namely drug design, preclinical validation, and clinical trials. In the Biotechnology and Biotechnology Sector, Digital Technology helps in the development of precision and personalized drug products. This means there are growing opportunities for startups and established companies to develop new and innovative DHTs. However, there should be a warning to be aware of the risks associated with DHT including ethical and technical issues.
22.	(Gordon et al., 2024)	Descriptive analysis with cross sectional study	95.8% of health workers agree that digital adherence technology (DAT) helps provide better support and counseling to tuberculosis patients. 45.8% of health workers cannot use digital adherence technology properly. DAT helps healthcare workers provide better support and care regarding real-time tracking of their patients, adherence to treatment, and possible friction reduction. This implies that DAT is a suitable alternative to DOT, helping healthcare workers provide the best care and support to tuberculosis patients.
23.	(Nunemo et al., 2023)	Mix method	The majority of tuberculosis (TB) patients do not have comorbidities with non-communicable diseases. The research conducted builds a system that is conducive to integrated implementation in developing a platform and structural authority in the organization to overcome existing challenges. To operationalize systematically integrated screening interventions, program managers must assign focused people,



			train health care workers and develop internal and external referral systems through communication and coordination. Policymakers should develop integration platforms and structural authority across different organizations by addressing identified challenges and implementing facilitators to build systems that support the integrated implementation of NCD screening interventions and risk factors in tuberculosis programs.
24.	(Borges do Nascimento et al., 2023)	Systematic review and meta analysis	A total of 24 articles were included in this study. The study revealed that South Africa is adopting digital technologies such as SMS-based solutions, mobile health apps, telemedicine and telehealth, WhatsApp-based systems, artificial intelligence, and chatbots and robotics to provide healthcare services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study revealed that teleconsultation and electronic prescription, telelaboratory and telepharmacy, teleeducation and teletraining, teledermatology, teleradiology, telecardiology, telephththalmology, teleneurology, telerehabilitation, teleoncology, and telepsychiatry are some of the virtual health services provided through digital health technology during the COVID-19 period. in South Africa. This smart digital health technology faces several obstacles such as infrastructure and technology barriers, organizational and financial barriers, policy and regulatory barriers and cultural barriers.
25.	(Y. Lee et al., 2020)	Scoping review	A total of 145 relevant studies were identified from 1,005 studies published between January 2016 and March 2019. Researchers from the United States conducted their research both domestically and abroad, while researchers from China and India conducted all research domestically. The majority of studies conducted between January 2016 and March 2019 on digital interventions for TB focused on diagnostic tools and treatment adherence technologies, such as video observation therapy and SMS. Few studies have addressed interventions for data services and health systems or resource management.
26.	(Sharma et al., 2018)	Descriptive analysis	Digital health technology has significant potential to revolutionize healthcare delivery, transform clinical trials, and improve health outcomes. There are many challenges that hinder the rapid adoption of this technology, including data quality and resiliency, patient safety, ease of use, privacy concerns, and accessibility. Limited compatibility between tech/medtech (social media, etc.) and medical community communication principles (guidelines, peer-reviewed publishing, and so on). Despite these challenges, the conversation around digital health technology represents a rare alignment of stakeholders including patients, academic researchers, industry, payers, and regulators. As healthcare continues to transition from the industrial era to the information age, researchers, scientists, doctors, payers, and regulators must ensure that we stay aware of our ultimate goal, which is to help patients live longer and feel better.
27.	(de Groot et al., 2022)	Qualitative Analysis	DAT noted a high level of adherence during treatment: 80% to 71% of DS-TB patients had an adherence of 90% at months 1 and 6, respectively, and 73% to 75% in TB-DR patients. Adherence increases between months 1 and 2 (DS-TB and DR-TB populations), then decreases (DS-TB). Men showed lower compliance and a sharper decline than women (DS-TB). DS TB patients aged 15–34 years compared to >50 years showed a sharper decline. Compliance correlates within HCF and differs between projects. Tuberculosis treatment adherence decreased over time and varied between subgroups, suggesting that over time, some patients were at risk of non-compliance. The real-time monitoring of medication adherence using DAT provides an opportunity for healthcare workers to identify patients who need a greater level of compliance support.
28.	(Manyazewal et al., 2021)	Systematic literature review	The results of the analysis show that although digital health technology (DHT) is a relatively new phenomenon in Ethiopia, its potential to utilize clinical practice and public health is still very visible. Its implementation

			and deployment at full capacity requires more training, access to better devices such as smartphones, and infrastructure. Digital health technology is very promising in addressing key clinical and clinical issues of public health savings and strengthening the healthcare ecosystem in Ethiopia. More RCTs are needed to address emerging digital health technologies including artificial intelligence, big data, cloud, cybersecurity, telemedicine and wearables to provide strong evidence of their potential use in such situations and to realize the WHO Global Strategy for Digital Health.
29.	(Mbunge et al., 2022)	Systematic literature review	Although COVID-19 has strengthened the use of digital health technology, there are still some shortcomings. The results of the study recommend increasing community networks in rural areas to bridge the digital divide and modifying mHealth policies to advocate for the effective use of innovative technologies in health services and the development of sustainable strategies for resource mobilization through private-public partnerships by joining international initiatives advocating for smart systems-based digital health.
30.	(Berger et al., 2020)	Qualitative Analysis	The study sample was users of the 99DOTS platform (n=67), including TB patients (n=11), family members (n=5), health center staff (n=36), public health workers (n=7), and community leaders (n=8). Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews involving open-ended questions about the experience of receiving and delivering TB services as well as the challenges and supporting factors associated with TB treatment adherence. Data analysis involves three steps: 1) Inductive identification of thematic categories that develop from the review of interview transcripts; 2) Develop an 'insight statement' based on thematic extrapolation; and 3) Translate each statement of insight into actionable 'design opportunities'

**Source : Several research articles, 2024**

## Discussion

### The Role of Digital Health in Tuberculosis Patients

Digital health provides innovative tools and approaches to address challenges in managing tuberculosis. By utilizing technology, it can improve the accessibility, effectiveness, and efficiency of health interventions for TB patients, as well as support efforts to reduce the prevalence and mortality of this disease.

Digital health has a significant role as an intervention in the management of tuberculosis (TB) patients. Here are some of the ways in which digital health can contribute:

- 1) Education and Awareness, consist of : Educational Apps: Mobile apps can provide information about TB, its symptoms, and the importance of proper treatment. It helps patients understand their condition and encourages them to seek treatment. Online Resources: Websites and social media platforms can be used to disseminate information and build awareness about TB in the community.
- 2) Monitoring and Management, consist of : Telemedicine: Remote consultations can help patients get medical advice without having to go to a healthcare facility, especially in

hard-to-reach areas. Monitoring Apps: Apps that allow patients to track their medications and report symptoms can improve medication adherence.

- 3) Reminders and Motivation, consist of : Medication Reminders: Reminder systems via SMS or apps can help patients remember to take their medications regularly, which is very important in TB treatment. Social Support: Digital platforms can provide support from fellow patients or support groups, which can increase motivation to continue following treatment.
- 4) Data Collection and Research, consist of : Digital Health Data: Collecting data about patients and their responses to treatment can help researchers and policymakers to better understand the epidemiology of TB and design more effective interventions. Data Analytics: Big data analytics can be used to identify patterns and trends in TB deployments, allowing for more precise and rapid responses.
- 5) Community Engagement: Community-Based Intervention Programs. Digital health can support programs that involve the community in handling TB, for example by using an app to report new cases or conduct health surveys.
- 6) Better Health Monitoring: Wearable Devices: The use of wearable devices to monitor health in real-time, such as

### **Digital Health Opportunities in Tuberculosis Patients**

Digital health offers a great opportunity to improve the management and treatment of tuberculosis patients. By leveraging technology, we can address challenges in TB management, improve patient engagement, and provide better access to healthcare. This can contribute to a reduction in TB incidence rates and improve the overall quality of life of patients. The opportunity of digital health as an intervention for tuberculosis (TB) patients is very promising and can have a significant impact in various aspects of the management of this disease. Here are some of the opportunities that can be taken advantage of:

- 1) Accessibility and Affordability, consist of : Mobile Apps: With the increasingly widespread use of smartphones, mobile apps can reach patients, especially in rural and remote areas, who may not have easy access to healthcare facilities. Telehealth: Remote consultation services allow patients to get healthcare services without having to travel, reducing the cost and time required for access to care.
- 2) Increased Patient Engagement, consist of : Reminders and Tracking: Apps that provide reminders for medication and allow patients to track their progress can improve engagement and adherence to medication. Digital-Based Education: Interactive educational platforms can improve patients' understanding of the disease, reduce stigma, and increase motivation to follow treatment.
- 3) Monitoring and Early Intervention, consist of : Wearable Devices: Wearable devices can be used to monitor a patient's health in real-time, detect signs of complications early and provide timely intervention. Real-Time Health Data: Digital-based health monitoring can help doctors in making better and faster clinical decisions.
- 4) Data Collection and Analysis, consist of : Epidemiological Data: Digital data collection can aid in TB epidemiological mapping, aiding in better planning of public health interventions. Big Data Analysis: Utilizing big data analysis to identify TB spread patterns and treatment effectiveness can support control and prevention efforts.
- 5) Healthcare Integration, consist of : Integration with Health Systems: Digital health can be integrated with existing health information systems to facilitate better data exchange between healthcare providers. Multidisciplinary: Approaches involving different disciplines (e.g., doctors, nurses, nutritionists) can be scaled up through digital platforms, strengthening collaboration in patient care.
- 6) Innovation in Medicine, consist of : Research and Development: Digital health can support research in the development of new therapies and innovative approaches to TB treatment. Community-Based Intervention Programs: Opportunities to launch community-based programs that leverage digital platforms to educate the public about TB prevention and treatment.
- 7) Psychosocial Support, consist of Online Communities: Online platforms can provide psychosocial support for TB patients, helping them share their experiences and get support from others who are going through the same thing. Remote Counseling: Counseling sessions through digital platforms can help address mental health issues that may arise as a result of a TB diagnosis.

## **Challenges of Digital Health in Tuberculosis Patients**

Although digital health offers many opportunities for the management of tuberculosis (TB), there are also various challenges that must be faced in its implementation. Here are some of the main challenges faced by digital health as an intervention for tuberculosis patients:

**Access to Technology, consist of :** Limited Internet Access: In many areas, especially in rural or resource-limited countries, access to stable and fast internet is still a problem, limiting patients' ability to use telehealth apps or services. Device Availability: Not all patients have the smartphones or digital devices required to access digital health services.

- 1) Patient Compliance and Engagement, consist of : Low Engagement Rate: Patients may not be actively using digital applications or platforms, reducing the effectiveness of digital interventions. This can be due to a lack of motivation, understanding, or technological skills. Stigma and Awareness: The stigma surrounding TB can influence patients' desire to engage in digital programs, especially if they are concerned about the privacy and security of their health information.
- 2) Data Security and Privacy, consist of : Concerns about Personal Data: The use of digital platforms involves the collection of personal health data, and there are concerns about how this data will be used, stored, and protected from unauthorized access. Regulations and Policies: Regulations regarding data privacy and health information security may differ from country to country, creating challenges in complying with the required standards.
- 3) Integration with Traditional Health Systems, consist of : Lack of interoperability: Many health systems are still operating in silos, and integration between digital platforms and traditional health systems can be difficult, reducing the efficiency and effectiveness of care. Resistance to Change: Healthcare staff may be reluctant to adopt new technology, especially if they are not trained in the use of digital systems or if they are concerned about the impact on existing clinical practice.
- 4) Fees and Funding, consist of : Development and Maintenance Costs: While technology can reduce costs in the long run, the development and maintenance of digital systems can be expensive. This can be a challenge for underfunded health systems. Uncertainty in Financing: The source of funding for digital health initiatives may not always be clear, and there is a risk that the project could be stalled due to a lack of financial support.
- 5) Quality of Content and Information, consist of : Inaccurate Information: The quality of information available on digital platforms may vary, and there is a risk that patients may access inaccurate or misleading information about TB and its treatment. Content

Standardization: The lack of standards for health digital content can make it difficult for patients to find consistent and reliable information.

- 6) Cultural and Language Barriers, consist of : Language and Digital Literacy: Patients from different backgrounds may have difficulty understanding the content presented in digital applications or platforms, especially if they do not speak the same language. Cultural Context: Digital approaches must consider the local cultural context to be more accepted by the community and more effective in reaching patients.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Several conclusions from this literature review research include: (1) Digital health provides various tools and innovative approaches to overcome challenges in managing tuberculosis. By utilizing technology, we can increase the accessibility, effectiveness and efficiency of health interventions for TB patients, as well as support efforts to reduce the prevalence and mortality rates of this disease. Digital health has a significant role as an intervention in the management of tuberculosis patients. (2) Digital health offers great opportunities to improve the management and treatment of tuberculosis patients. By utilizing technology, we can overcome various challenges in treating tuberculosis, increase patient engagement, and provide better access to health services. This can contribute to reducing the incidence of tuberculosis and improving the overall quality of life of patients. The opportunities for digital health as an intervention for tuberculosis patients are very promising and can have a significant impact on various aspects of managing this disease. (3) Although digital health offers many opportunities for managing tuberculosis, there are also various challenges that must be faced in its implementation, including: challenges of technology access, patient compliance and engagement, data security and privacy, integration with traditional health systems, costs and funding, quality content and information as well as cultural and language barriers.



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