

Table 2 Univariable analysis of factors associated with patient and health system delays, Algeria

| Factors                                                   | Patient delay ( $\geq 15$ days) |             |        | Healthcare system delay ( $\geq 28$ days) |             |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
|                                                           | Yes<br>n (%)                    | No<br>n (%) | P      | Yes<br>n (%)                              | No<br>n (%) | P      |
| <b>Sex</b>                                                |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Male                                                      | 96 (51.3)                       | 91 (48.7)   | 0.50   | 87 (46.5)                                 | 100 (53.5)  | 0.03   |
| Female                                                    | 75 (55.2)                       | 61 (44.8)   |        | 80 (58.8)                                 | 56 (41.2)   |        |
| <b>Age (years)</b>                                        |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| $\geq 50$                                                 | 52 (65.0)                       | 28 (35.0)   | 0.09   | 48 (60.0)                                 | 32 (40.0)   | 0.09   |
| $< 50$                                                    | 119 (49.0)                      | 124 (51.0)  |        | 119 (49.0)                                | 124 (51.0)  |        |
| <b>Marital status</b>                                     |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Currently married                                         | 73 (48.3)                       | 78 (51.7)   | 0.12   | 74 (49.0)                                 | 77 (51.0)   | 0.36   |
| Not currently married                                     | 98 (57.0)                       | 74 (43.0)   |        | 93 (54.1)                                 | 79 (45.9)   |        |
| <b>Level of education</b>                                 |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Illiterate and primary                                    | 35 (68.6)                       | 16 (31.4)   | 0.01   | 27 (52.9)                                 | 24 (47.1)   | 0.85   |
| > primary                                                 | 136 (50.0)                      | 136 (50.0)  |        | 140 (51.5)                                | 132 (48.5)  |        |
| <b>Occupation</b>                                         |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Unskilled                                                 | 68 (54.0)                       | 58 (46.0)   | 0.77   | 56 (44.4)                                 | 70 (55.6)   | 0.03   |
| Others and unemployed                                     | 103 (52.3)                      | 94 (47.7)   |        | 111 (56.4)                                | 86 (44.7)   |        |
| <b>Socioeconomic class</b>                                |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Lower                                                     | 83 (52.5)                       | 75 (47.5)   | 0.89   | 75 (47.5)                                 | 83 (52.5)   | 0.13   |
| Middle and upper                                          | 88 (53.3)                       | 77 (46.7)   |        | 92 (55.8)                                 | 73 (44.2)   |        |
| <b>Residence</b>                                          |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Rural                                                     | 98 (53.3)                       | 86 (46.7)   | 0.89   | 98 (53.3)                                 | 86 (46.7)   | 0.52   |
| Urban                                                     | 73 (52.5)                       | 66 (47.5)   |        | 69 (49.6)                                 | 70 (50.4)   |        |
| <b>Core knowledge of tuberculosis*</b>                    |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| No                                                        | 99 (54.7)                       | 82 (45.3)   | 0.48   | 92 (50.8)                                 | 89 (49.2)   | 0.72   |
| Yes                                                       | 72 (50.7)                       | 70 (49.3)   |        | 75 (52.8)                                 | 67 (47.2)   |        |
| <b>Primary symptoms</b>                                   |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Cough or fever                                            | 142 (54.4)                      | 119 (45.6)  | 0.28   | 140 (53.6)                                | 121 (46.4)  | 0.15   |
| Other symptoms <sup>b</sup>                               | 29 (46.8)                       | 33 (53.2)   |        | 27 (43.6)                                 | 35 (56.5)   |        |
| <b>Comorbidity</b>                                        |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Yes                                                       | 76 (52.4)                       | 69 (47.6)   | 0.86   | 88 (60.7)                                 | 57 (39.3)   | < 0.01 |
| No                                                        | 95 (53.4)                       | 83 (46.6)   |        | 79 (44.4)                                 | 99 (55.6)   |        |
| <b>First treatment preference</b>                         |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Pharmacy                                                  | 151 (60.6)                      | 98 (39.4)   | < 0.01 | 124 (49.8)                                | 125 (50.2)  | 0.21   |
| Doctor                                                    | 20 (27.0)                       | 54 (73.0)   |        | 43 (58.1)                                 | 31 (41.9)   |        |
| <b>Distance from the nearest healthcare facility (km)</b> |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| $\geq 1$                                                  | 63 (56.3)                       | 49 (43.7)   | 0.39   | 63 (56.3)                                 | 49 (43.7)   | 0.23   |
| < 1                                                       | 108 (51.2)                      | 103 (48.8)  |        | 104 (49.3)                                | 107 (50.7)  |        |
| <b>First healthcare provider</b>                          |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Public sector                                             | 73 (54.9)                       | 60 (45.1)   | 0.56   | 72 (54.1)                                 | 61 (45.9)   | 0.46   |
| Private sector                                            | 98 (51.6)                       | 92 (48.4)   |        | 95 (50.0)                                 | 95 (50.0)   |        |
| <b>Chest X-ray at the first health care provider</b>      |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| No                                                        | N/A                             | N/A         |        | 142 (60.7)                                | 92 (39.3)   | < 0.01 |
| Yes                                                       | N/A                             | N/A         |        | 25 (28.1)                                 | 64 (71.9)   |        |
| <b>Inpatient admission before diagnosis</b>               |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Yes                                                       | N/A                             | N/A         |        | 42 (60.0)                                 | 28 (40.0)   | 0.12   |
| No                                                        | N/A                             | N/A         |        | 125 (49.4)                                | 128 (50.6)  |        |
| <b>Sputum bacteriological results</b>                     |                                 |             |        |                                           |             |        |
| Culture-positive                                          | N/A                             | N/A         |        | 16 (76.2)                                 | 5 (23.8)    | 0.02   |
| Smear-positive                                            | N/A                             | N/A         |        | 151 (50.0)                                | 151 (50.0)  |        |

N/A: not applicable

Significant at  $P < 0.05$ 

\* Correct response to at least 5 out of 7 knowledge questions.

<sup>b</sup> Included weight loss, night sweats, shortness of breath and haemoptysis.