The book Infectious and Parasitic Diseases: Pocket Guide, 8th reviewed edition magazine was a publication of the Ministry of Health - Secretary of health surveillance and epidemiological surveillance department, in 2010, with 444 pages. It is also available on the website saude.gov.br and in some Regional Boards of Nursing.

The work is divided into two parts, namely: Part I: "Epidemiological Surveillance: technical procedures and situation of infectious diseases in Brazil", containing six chapters and Part II: "Infectious Diseases of Concern for Public Health", covering 69 diseases of great interest to family health and community divided individually in their respective chapters, pages 75-437. Such, is addressed only the chapter 49 related to tuberculous meningitis. The authors describe an overview of the disease by addressing the description, causative agent, reservoir, way of transmission, incubation period and transmissibility, complications, laboratory and differential diagnosis, treatment, epidemiological characteristics and also shows on epidemiological surveillance, focusing mainly on the criteria for case definition suspected and confirmed, and control measures.

On the description of the disease, the authors call attention to the seriousness of the disease, because most cases have a clinical picture that starts slowly, making the diagnosis of suspicion costly. There are described the three classical stages of tuberculous meningitis if untreated, with stage I: having nonspecific clinical manifestations, such as fever, headache and vomiting. Stage II: maintains constant symptoms of the first stage and appears evidence of brain damage, linked mainly cranial nerves, causing various manifestations, such as plegias and meningeal irritation. Stage III: patients have neck stiffness, cardiac and respiratory changes and coma, among other events.

The etiologic agent, according to the Pocket Guide, is Mycobacterium tuberculosis and its main reservoir, man. The talk, sneeze and cough sick individual confer transmission of TB, especially through the air. After infection, the incubation period occurs in the first six months, and tuberculous meningitis considered a complication of primary tuberculosis. The period of communicability of tuberculous meningitis occurs only when it is associated with pulmonary tuberculosis, and that after the start of drug treatment recommended, the transmission is reduced gradually. Late diagnosis has serious complications and may lead to death. For laboratory diagnosis, is performed to study the cerebrospinal fluid, and differential diagnosis is important to rule out other diseases.

As recommended by the Ministry of Health, the treatment is indicated from the age of ten. It is interesting that the regimens are exemplified through two frameworks, addressing the drugs, the weight range, doses and time recommended for younger and older than ten.

The book describes the epidemiological characteristics and draws attention that the disease does not undergo seasonal variations and have a relationship with the social and economic standards of the population. When there are cases of the disease in a community, it may indicate low vaccine coverage of BCG.
The authors describe the importance of epidemiological surveillance to investigate suspected cases, so that also determine the home contacts, thereby identifying the sources of infection. Tuberculous meningitis is compulsory and mandatory reporting research, also address the criteria for suspected and confirmed cases and emphasize the importance of control measures, for example, exposure to the population, vaccination and early detection and treatment in cases of the bacillus' transmitters, called bacillipherous.

The issues addressed in this work are of great relevance to the acting and academic professionals who have an interest in acting, especially in the Family Health Strategy (FHS), also known as the Family Health Program (PSF - in Portuguese).

About the disease described, it is important that nursing professionals should update themselves on tuberculous meningitis, since it is a serious disease and there are professionals who are unaware about the disease.

REFERENCE