

Treatment outcomes of first BPAL patients in the Philippines under Operational research

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Type selection

Category: Scientific research

Preferred presentation type: Oral abstract presentation

Track selection

Track: B3: Clinical trials and operational research for new treatments for TB (for adults and children)

Title

Scientific Research Abstract Text

Background: The treatment success rate of rifampicin-resistant TB (RR-TB) patients given standard program regimens in the Philippines ranged from 54% to 74% from 2015 to 2019 even with the introduction of the 9 month bedaquiline-containing shorter regimen. In 2019, loss to follow-up (LTFU) was 12%, death 11%, failure 3%. In 2020, WHO recommended 6 months BPAL with bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid 1200 mg/d under operational research (OR) for fluoroquinolone-resistant, intolerant and non-responsive MDR-TB patients. The Philippines was among the early adopters and implemented the BPAL OR under LIFT-TB in Dec 2020 with strengthening of laboratory capacity, clinical management and active TB drug safety monitoring and management.

Design/Methods: This is a descriptive study using OR data in the Philippines entered to data collection forms, REDCap and excel databases, and programme data from the National TB Program describing treatment outcomes.

Results: The BPAL OR in the Philippines enrolled 103 patients from June 2021-December 2022, of whom 58 finished 6 months of treatment (Linezolid 1200 mg/d) by June 2022. Mean age was 58 years; 64% (37) male; 9% (5) people living with HIV; 31% (18) with diabetes mellitus. BPAL eligibility included 48% (28) fluoroquinolone resistance; 48% (28) intolerance and 3% (2) non-response to previous MDR regimens. The BPAL OR success rate was 97% (56), 1.7% (1) death from a cardiac cause and 1.7% (1) not evaluated due to protocol violation. There was no LTFU nor treatment failure. There were 16 patients assessed for the 6th month post-treatment follow-up with 100% sustained success.

Conclusions: Outstanding treatment outcomes of patients on the BPAL regimen should encourage countries to transition to programmatic use of WHO-recommended BPAL-based regimens for MDR/RR-TB while strengthening both clinical and programmatic aspects. Aside from a shorter treatment duration, the pill burden is lower, transmission of MDR/RR-TB would be less, and patients can return to economic productivity earlier.

Summary

Summary: Six-month BPAL regimen treatment outcomes under operational research in the Philippines are described. The 2019 program regimens using 9- and 18-month regimens yielded only 74% TS. These results should encourage countries to transition to programmatic use of the BPAL-based regimens for MDR/RR-TB while strengthening clinical and programmatic aspects.

Other Fields

Country of research: Philippines

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