

Implementation of the BPaL regimen in Ukraine: from operational research to programmatic implementation

Olesia Medvedieva, Elmira Gurbanova, Kai Blondal, Olga Zaitseva, Olena Nesterova, Natalia Lytvynenko, Svetlana Tyaglo, Valentina Glynenko, Oksana Tsapyk, Alina Butko, Alla Pirog, Yana Terleeva

Background: Treatment success for pre-extensively resistant (XDR)/XDR-TB with longer regimens in Ukraine is only 62,9%. In war conditions, due to population migration, destroyed infrastructure, constant rocket attacks, outflow of personnel and barriers to access to medical care, the risk of interruption from longer treatment is much higher.

Intervention: Prospective study in one cohort of pre-XDR/XDR-TB patients to assess effectiveness of BPaL.

Results: All bacteriologically confirmed rifampicin-resistant cases registered in 22 out of 25 regions of Ukraine (excluding temporarily occupied regions) during July 2022-February 2023 were screened for inclusion to the study. Out of 1024 patients screened 358 were enrolled in the study (Figure 1), 65 (18%) successfully completed treatment, 276 (77%) were still on treatment and 5 (1,4%) loss to follow-up registered. Out of 245 patients completed 3 months of treatment, 196 (80%) reached culture conversion.

Conclusions: BPaL shows high early efficacy. In January 2023, Ukraine started programmatic implementation of BPaL based on experience from this study and WHO recommendations.

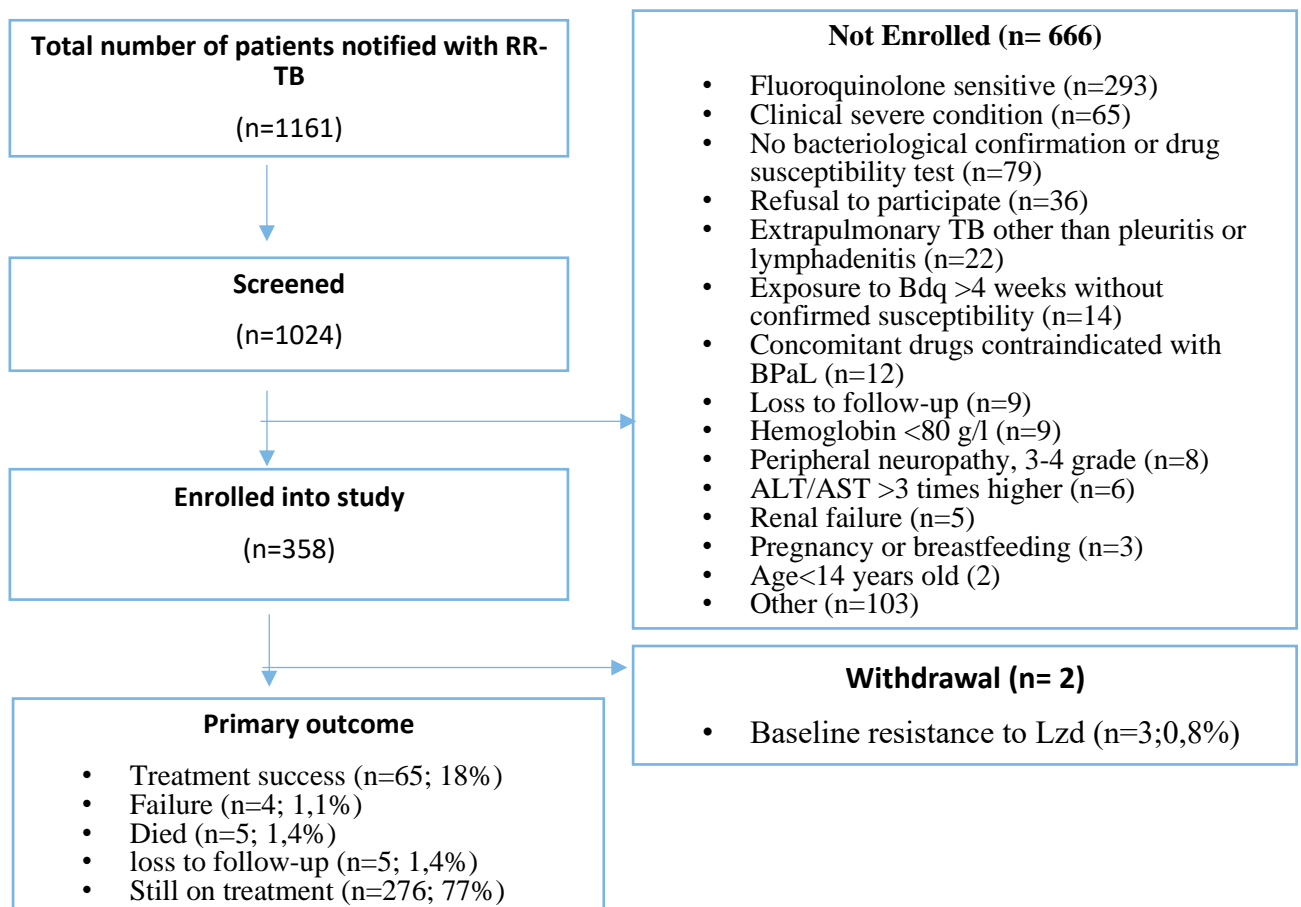


Figure 1. Enrolment flow diagram, operational research on BPaL in Ukraine, 2022 – 2023