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Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

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Targeted Tuberculin Testing and Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis

This Official Statement of the American Thoracic Society was adopted by the ATS Board of Directors, July 1999. This is a Joint Statement of the American Thoracic Society and the Council of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), September 1999, and the sections of this Statement as it relates to the IDSA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This statement provides new recommendations for targeted tuberculin testing and treatment regimens for persons with latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) as an essential component of the TB Elimination Strategy promoted by the U.S. Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Tuberculosis and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Isoniazid for 6--12 mo has been the mainstay of treatment for LTBI in the United States for more than 30 yr. However, the availability of concerns about toxicity. Therefore, there has been interest in the development of shorter, rifampin-based regimens as alternative treatments. In addition, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection has been undertaken. The results of these trials have recently become available. In addition, many changes to previous recommendations regarding testing for and treatment of LTBI are presented ([Table 1](#)).

Targeted Tuberculin Testing

Targeted tuberculin testing for LTBI is a strategic component of tuberculosis (TB) control that identifies persons at high risk for recent infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and those who have clinical conditions that are associated with an increase in TB risk only among groups at high risk and discouraged in those at low risk. Infected persons who are considered to be at high risk for TB are those who are at high risk for TB based on the sensitivity and specificity of the purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin skin test and the prevalence of TB infection (see [Table 7](#)). For persons who are at highest risk for developing active TB if they are infected with *M. tuberculosis* (e.g., recent immigrants, persons with abnormal chest radiographs consistent with prior TB), ≥ 5 mm of induration is considered positive. For other persons, ≥ 10 mm of induration is considered positive. These include recent immigrants (i.e., within the last 5 yr) from high prevalence countries; persons with abnormal chest radiographs; mycobacteriology laboratory personnel; persons with clinical conditions such as silicosis, diabetes mellitus, chronic renal failure, or HIV infection; and children younger than 4 yr of age or infants, children, and adolescents exposed to adults in high-risk categories.

Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

In this report, treatment recommendations use an adaptation of the rating system from recent U.S. Public Health Service documents. Four regimens are recommended for the treatment of adults with LTBI. (See [Tables 8](#) and [10](#) for detailed recommendations,

The isoniazid daily regimen for 9 mo is recommended because prospective, randomized trials in HIV-negative persons indicate that a 9-mo regimen of isoniazid is likely achieved by 9 mo, and minimal additional benefit is gained by extending therapy to 12 mo. When compared with a 6-mo regimen, a 9-mo regimen is likely to be more effective in randomized trials.

Although a 9-mo regimen of isoniazid is the preferred regimen for the treatment of LTBI, a 6-mo regimen also provides substantial benefit. Both the 9-mo and 6-mo isoniazid regimens may be given intermittently (i.e., twice weekly). When isoniazid is given intermittently, the 2-mo daily regimen of rifampin and pyrazinamide is recommended on the basis of a prospective randomized trial of treatment with rifampin and pyrazinamide for 2 or 3 mo may be considered when alternative regimens cannot be given. Pyrazinamide also can be given by DOT, which can consist of five observed and two self-administered doses each week. In situations where rifampin given daily for 4 mo is recommended on the basis of the efficacy of a similar regimen in a) a prospective randomized trial, an option may be especially useful for patients who cannot tolerate isoniazid or pyrazinamide.

Before beginning treatment of LTBI, active TB should be ruled out by history, physical examination, chest radiography, and sputum culture. Special considerations for treatment of LTBI apply to the following populations:

- When isoniazid is chosen for treatment of LTBI in persons with HIV infection or those with radiographic evidence of TB, a 9-mo regimen is recommended.
- For pregnant, HIV-negative women, isoniazid given daily or twice weekly for 9 or 6 mo is recommended. For women whose pregnancy is complicated by TB, therapy should not be delayed on the basis of pregnancy alone, even during the first trimester. For women whose risk of TB is high, therapy should be initiated as soon as possible.
- For children and adolescents, isoniazid given either daily or twice weekly for 9 mo is the recommended regimen.
- For contacts of patients with isoniazid-resistant, rifampin-susceptible TB, rifampin and pyrazinamide given daily for 2 mo is recommended.
- For persons who are likely to be infected with isoniazid- and rifampin-resistant (multidrug) TB and who are at high risk of progression to active TB, a 9-mo regimen is recommended. Immunocompetent contacts may be observed or treated for at least 6 mo, and immunocompromised contacts should be treated for 9 mo.

Clinical and Laboratory Monitoring

Once patients have been identified and then tested for LTBI, they should receive an initial clinical evaluation. They should be given a physical examination and chest radiograph (if not given pyrazinamide). This evaluation should include questioning about side effects and a brief physical assessment checking for signs of active TB. Patients should seek medical evaluation when they occur.

Baseline laboratory testing is not routinely indicated for all patients at the start of treatment for LTBI (see Table 8). Patients should have baseline tests for aspartate aminotransferase (AST [SGOT]) or alanine aminotransferase (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase) (ALT [SGPT]) (i.e., within 3 mo of delivery), persons with a history of chronic liver disease (e.g., hepatitis B or C, alcoholic hepatitis, or cirrhosis). However, such testing may be considered on an individual basis, particularly for patients who are taking other medications for TB or who have other medical conditions that may affect liver function.

Routine laboratory monitoring during treatment of LTBI is indicated for persons whose baseline liver function tests are abnormal. For persons with abnormal liver function tests, liver function studies should be performed during the course of treatment (e.g., liver function studies for patients with symptoms compatible with hepatotoxicity or a uric acid level three times the upper limit of normal if associated with symptoms and five times the upper limit of normal if the patient is asymptomatic).

INTRODUCTION

History of Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection and Relevance to Tuberculosis Control

For more than three decades, treatment of persons with latent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection (LTBI) to prevent the development of active TB has been a major public health goal. In countries with a low incidence of TB, most new, active cases have occurred among persons who were once infected, contain latent infection, and are susceptible to reactivation. Until recently, isoniazid was the only drug proven to be effective for the treatment of TB. Shortly after isoniazid was found to be effective for the treatment of TB, clinical trials were begun to assess the ability of the drug to prevent TB in contacts of TB patients and of other persons at high risk (e.g., those with radiographic evidence of TB, persons with a positive tuberculin skin test, and persons with a positive purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin skin test). The American Thoracic Society (ATS) (7). This initial statement recommended isoniazid for persons with evidence of previously untreated TB and persons with a positive tuberculin skin test. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Public Health Service (PHS) broadened the recommendations to include all persons who had had a purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin skin test conversion, b) persons with tuberculin skin test conversions, c) persons with specified medical conditions, and d) persons with a positive tuberculin skin test conversion. It was believed that "chemoprophylaxis [could] reduce future morbidity from TB in persons with a positive tuberculin skin test conversion." However, despite this belief, the goal of reducing TB morbidity by such a substantial percentage through the administration of isoniazid was not achieved. In a study conducted in Hill in the District of Columbia, 19 persons developed clinical signs of liver disease and two persons died of hepatic failure as a result of isoniazid treatment. The study was discontinued regarding pretreatment screening and monitoring to minimize the risk for severe complications (10). In 1974, following a study of isoniazid treatment in persons aged older than 35 yr of age as candidates for treatment (12).

Subsequent controversy over the appropriate age cut-off for these low-risk, tuberculin-positive persons ensued, with one group recommending treatment of persons aged 15 yr or older and another group recommending treatment of persons aged 15 yr or older and other persons at risk for hepatotoxicity (15). Recent studies have suggested that since the advent of routine monitoring, the use of isoniazid for the treatment of LTBI became limited by actual and perceived toxicity. The introduction of rifampin, which appeared to be a better sterilizing agent than isoniazid, suggested the possibility that rifampin might be more effective for the treatment of LTBI. The evaluation of the efficacy of treatment for LTBI in persons coinfecting with HIV and *M. tuberculosis* led to a series of studies of isoniazid treatment in persons with HIV infection (3).

Relationship of Tuberculin Testing to Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

As the rate of active TB in the United States has decreased, identification and treatment of persons with latent infection who Elimination of Tuberculosis (19). Because testing persons for infection and provision of treatment are interrelated, these recommendations on the use of new, short-course treatment regimens.

Change in Nomenclature

Identification of persons with LTBI has previously been accomplished by widespread tuberculin skin testing of individuals tested. To focus on groups at the highest risk for TB, the term "targeted tuberculin testing" is used in these guidelines to encourage Although the terms "preventive therapy" and "chemoprophylaxis" have been used for decades, they have also been confusing known or likely to be infected with *M. tuberculosis*, but it rarely results in true primary prevention (i.e., prevention of infectious "treatment of LTBI" rather than "preventive therapy" or "chemoprophylaxis." This change in nomenclature will hopefully promote control strategy.

SCIENTIFIC RATIONALE

Targeted Tuberculin Testing

Groups at Risk and Risk Factors for Infection with M. tuberculosis

Targeted tuberculin testing for LTBI identifies persons at high risk for TB who would benefit by treatment of LTBI, if detect *tuberculosis* or have clinical conditions that are associated with an increased risk of progression of LTBI to active TB (Table targeted testing.

Persons or groups with presumed recent M. tuberculosis infection. Persons infected with *M. tuberculosis* are at greatest risk contacts of persons with active TB and among patients in mental hospitals, the tuberculin skin tests of 1472 participants in the follow-up (12.9 cases per 1000 person-years) compared with 17 persons in the subsequent 7 yr of follow-up (1.6 cases per 1, these, 121 (4.7%) developed clinical TB within 15 yr of entry into the study: 54% developed disease during the first year after In designing and planning targeted testing programs, several groups of persons can be identified as being at increased risk for with infectious pulmonary TB (21); both of these characteristics are likely attributable to recent contact with infectious persons recently.

Persons who have immigrated from areas of the world with high rates of TB have incidence rates that approach those of their in the native country before immigration and progression to disease soon after arrival in the United States. This hypothesis is transmission of TB among foreign-born case patients in the United States (23) and b) other data indicating that with time, the Children, especially those younger than 5 yr of age, who have a positive tuberculin skin test are likely to be in the early stage also increased in adolescents and young adults (25).

Recent U.S. studies (including RFLP studies) have helped characterize certain epidemiologically defined groups of persons (drug users) (23,26). In addition, persons who reside or work in institutional settings (e.g., hospitals, homeless shelters, correction acquiring TB infection. However, the risk for transmission varies greatly, and the likelihood that a specific institution is a site *Clinical conditions associated with progression to active tuberculosis.* HIV infection contributes most to an increased risk for observation (Table 2) (28). In a prospective cohort study of persons with HIV infection in the United States, the annual risk for progressing to active TB (10 cases per 1000 person-years) (30), and this risk is even greater for injection drug users in the population, and the increased risk associated with injection drug use and HIV infection.

The risk for active TB is also increased in a) persons with pulmonary fibrotic lesions seen on chest radiographs (presumed to risk for progression to active TB of 2.0--13.6 per 1000 person-years of observation (32--34). A study of 23,541 U.S. Naval recruits risk of progression to disease that was twofold that of persons who were within 5% of the standard weight for their height and Studies indicate that several other clinical conditions increase the risk for active TB, although participants in these studies were Tuberculin-positive persons with silicosis have an approximately 30-fold greater risk for developing TB (36--38). Persons with diabetes mellitus have a risk for developing active TB that is twofold to fourfold greater than persons without diabetes and been associated with active TB include gastrectomy with attendant weight loss and malabsorption (45--47), jejunioileal bypass and leukemia [54]).

Persons receiving prolonged therapy with corticosteroids and other immunosuppressive agents may be at risk for reactivation (55,56), and because lower doses or those given intermittently are not associated with TB, this dose is likely the lower limit of prolonged periods of time, especially in populations at high risk for TB, but specific thresholds of dose and duration that could other potential risk factors that commonly occur among such persons, alcohol use has been difficult to identify as a separate

Operational Considerations

In *A Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Tuberculosis in The United States*, published by CDC in 1989 (61), the responsibility for tests, interpretation of test results, and intensive follow-up required to ensure adherence with and to prevent side effects of is However, in 1995, CDC published recommendations on targeted testing and treatment of LTBI that emphasized the importance of their communities (2). This recommendation was based on the recognition that changes in the organization, delivery, and financing example, populations that previously received clinical services, including diagnosis of LTBI, at public health clinics are now

Because health departments might lack access to high-risk populations and the resources necessary to undertake targeted test TB in high-risk groups. Community sites where persons at high risk may be accessed and where targeted testing programs have syringe/needle-exchange programs (68), and other community-based social service organizations (69).

Diagnosis of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

Tuberculin Skin Testing

The tuberculin skin test is the only proven method for identifying infection with *M. tuberculosis* in persons who do not have better diagnostic methods have yet been devised. Proper use of the tuberculin skin test requires knowledge of the antigen used, epidemiologic and clinical experience with the test. Detailed information on these topics is provided in the ATS/CDC Statement *Immunologic basis for the tuberculin reaction*. Infection with *M. tuberculosis* produces a delayed-type hypersensitivity reaction to tuberculin, which is used for most skin testing, is isolated from culture filtrate by protein precipitation.

The reaction to intracutaneously injected tuberculin is a delayed-type (cellular) hypersensitivity (DTH) reaction, and infection to PPD tuberculin may also indicate infection with various nontuberculous mycobacteria or vaccination with Bacille Calmett begin 56 h after injection, reach a maximum at 48--72 h, and subside over a period of a few days, although positive reactions *Sensitivity and specificity of skin-test reactions*. Knowledge of tuberculin-test sensitivity and specificity, as well as positive predictive value in persons who have a low probability of LTBI. The general U.S. population currently has an estimated *M. tuberculosis* test has a specificity approaching 99%, testing of persons in such low-prevalence groups would result in most positive tests that can be improved by progressively increasing the reaction size that separates positive from negative reactors (at the expense of *Previous BCG vaccination*. Intracutaneous inoculation with BCG is currently used in many parts of the world as a vaccine against skin test. Periodic skin testing may prolong reactivity to tuberculin in vaccinated persons (74). No reliable method has been developed. Reactions of ≥ 20 mm of induration are not likely caused by BCG (75).

HIV infection and anergy testing. HIV-infected persons may have a compromised ability to react to tuberculin skin tests because tuberculin-negative, HIV-infected persons who might benefit from treatment of LTBI has not been demonstrated (77).

Chest Radiographs

In persons with LTBI, the chest radiograph is usually normal, although it may show abnormalities suggestive of prior TB. Prior TB with or without visible calcification, may be seen in the hilar area or upper lobes. Smaller nodules, with or without fibrotic scars TB have well-demarcated, sharp margins and are often described as "hard." Bronchiectasis of the upper lobes is a nonspecific finding or other infections. Nodules and fibrotic scars may contain slowly multiplying tubercle bacilli with substantial potential for future risk for future progression to active TB.

Sputum Examinations

The presumptive diagnosis of active pulmonary TB is often made on the basis of microscopic examination of a stained sputum. Persons with normal chest radiographs, AFB are rarely seen on sputum smear examination, and tubercle bacilli are not found on chest radiographs.

Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

Isoniazid

Experimental studies. Before clinical trials of isoniazid for the treatment of LTBI were begun in the United States, its efficacy against tubercle bacilli (78). Those animals receiving a daily dosage of at least 5 mg/kg were protected (i.e., survival was comparable to humans).

Clinical trials in HIV-negative persons. Many randomized, controlled clinical trials of isoniazid for the treatment of LTBI with more than 100,000 participants at risk for TB, including children with primary TB, contacts of active case patients, persons who had isoniazid with placebo. The outcomes measured in these studies included progression of primary TB, tuberculin conversion in persons with TB among all persons participating in these trials, varied from 25 to 92%. However, when analysis was restricted to persons with irregular but sustained, suggesting the possibility that intermittent treatment may be efficacious.

Only one trial, conducted by the International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT) (32), was designed to evaluate various durations of pulmonary lesions consistent with inactive TB. The 5-yr incidence rates of tuberculosis were 1.43% for placebo compared with 0.17% for the 12-mo regimen and 75% effectiveness for the 12-mo regimen; persons who received 6 mo of isoniazid had a 40% higher risk for TB than placebo. The difference in the two regimens is magnified when study subjects who received "almost all" of the monthly drug allotment were included in a subgroup, which constituted 78% of the entire study population, the resulting 5-yr incidence rates were 1.5% for persons receiving 6 mo and 0.17% for 12 mo; 69% efficacious and for 12 mo was 93% efficacious; participants on the 6-mo regimen had a fourfold higher risk for TB than the 12-mo regimens, such persons were less adherent to treatment. The 12-mo regimen provided a substantial reduction in risk compared with placebo. Additional information on the efficacy and effectiveness of different lengths of therapy with isoniazid for the treatment of LTBI is provided in the *ATS/CDC Statement on the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection*. In a community-based study conducted in Bethel, Alaska (79), persons who took <25% of the prescribed annual dose had a 10% higher risk for TB than persons who took $\geq 25\%$ of the prescribed annual dose.

decreased significantly if <9 mo of isoniazid was taken (Figure 1) (80).

Effectiveness data from the IUAT study, published data on isoniazid-associated hepatitis, and cost information obtained from with the 6-mo regimen was determined to be half of the cost as either the 3-mo or 12-mo regimens. This cost-effectiveness a with normal chest radiographs (82). However, the protection conferred by taking at least 9 mo of isoniazid is greater than the *Clinical trials in HIV-positive persons*. Seven randomized, controlled trials have evaluated different regimens for the treatment either received a placebo or were not actively treated.

In the first study, conducted in Haiti during 1986--1992, 12 mo of daily isoniazid resulted in a substantial reduction in TB (86). 6 mo of isoniazid taken daily by tuberculin-positive persons, had differing results: the drug provided a significant level of protection weekly regimen of isoniazid in both tuberculin-positive and - negative persons in Zambia (86). The overall level of protection because of the limited number of persons in this group.

The Uganda study also evaluated the 6-mo regimen of daily isoniazid in anergic persons, as did the fifth study conducted in 1985. Additional evaluations of isoniazid were conducted in tuberculin-negative persons who were not assessed for anergy (83,85,86). Treatment should be targeted at tuberculin-positive persons. A recently published metaanalysis of these trials supports this conclusion. *Safety and tolerability*. In 1965, when isoniazid was first recommended in the United States for treatment of LTBI, it was noted that suspected drug reactions was low and approximately equivalent for the placebo and isoniazid groups (21). The occurrence of hepatitis and indicated that asymptomatic increase in hepatic transaminases occurred among persons receiving the drug (89). This is now understood (9).

The largest and most comprehensive study of isoniazid hepatitis was conducted by PHS during 1971--1972 (11). In this survey, the rate was 1%, but it was age related, with no cases occurring among persons younger than 20 yr of age and the highest rate (2.3%) higher among persons consuming alcohol daily than among those who did not drink alcohol. Rates among males and females were lower among participants in the IUAT trial, although the same positive association with age was observed (32). In the PHS surveillance study, years after completion of the study, a review of death certificates showed a marked increase in deaths from cirrhosis during 1971-1972 (90).

A comprehensive analysis of deaths from isoniazid-associated hepatitis in the United States found that women may be at increased risk of drug to pregnant women in the third trimester and the immediate postpartum period (92) or by the concomitant administration of alcohol. A detailed study of deaths from isoniazid-associated hepatitis did not implicate acetaminophen as a factor (95).

Isoniazid-related deaths continue to be reported. However, the likelihood of this occurrence can be greatly reduced by careful monitoring following the development of fulminant, isoniazid-related hepatitis continued to take the drug for a least 10 d after onset of symptoms. Following the PHS surveillance study, guidelines on the use of isoniazid for the treatment of LTBI were revised to recommend a time, and that monthly questioning and education about signs and symptoms of hepatitis should be routine (12). The guideline is for persons 15 years of age or older (15).

More recently, a survey found that many public health TB clinics now use clinical, rather than biochemical, monitoring for hepatitis by instructing them to stop treatment immediately if such symptoms occur and to report to the clinician for evaluation. After use of isoniazid (and hospitalization) and no deaths among more than 11,000 persons with LTBI during isoniazid treatment over a 7-yr period (99). Toxicity monitoring "that are congruent with established therapeutic/toxicity relationships" (98).

Recent studies of isoniazid treatment of LTBI in HIV-infected persons have demonstrated that the medication was well tolerated. Adverse reactions were slightly but not significantly more common among persons receiving isoniazid (88).

Despite the high efficacy and relative safety of isoniazid treatment for LTBI, its use has been frequently debated; much literature emerged more than two decades ago, in a different environmental context with different risks and contingencies, its use. Although the likelihood that a patient treated with isoniazid would develop hepatitis was low, it presented a valid argument against the drug, which appeared from the 1970s through the early 1980s, focused on persons at low risk for reacting to tuberculin, primarily older persons. Because the debate over whether to prescribe or withhold isoniazid for persons older than 35 yr of age at low risk for reacting to tuberculin was used by most investigators (103). Despite many analyses, the decision to treat persons at low risk for reacting to tuberculin with isoniazid was substantial.

Short-course Regimens

Experimental studies in animals. Because of high rates of nonadherence with the long duration of isoniazid (i.e., 6--12 mo) a regimen containing rifampin and pyrazinamide were evaluated. Evaluating rifampin were based on data from several studies in mouse models of chronic TB. One study compared isoniazid and rifampin in lung and spleen tissues within 4 mo, and the combination of rifampin and pyrazinamide sterilized tissues within 2 mo. The isoniazid regimen had not sterilized tissues by the end of 6 mo.

The apparent superiority of the rifampin--pyrazinamide regimen over the regimen containing the same two drugs plus isoniazid came from a study using a Cornell mouse model (106) that compared 6-wk regimens of rifampin, rifampin--isoniazid, rifampin--pyrazinamide, and three regimens was similar, with trend toward a lower colony count in spleens of animals given more drugs, and lower colony count with isoniazid, taken twice weekly, may effectively treat LTBI in 3 mo (107).

Clinical trials in HIV-negative persons. The only randomized clinical trial to evaluate rifampin-containing regimens among persons with LTBI compared isoniazid, 3 mo of rifampin, or 3 mo of isoniazid and rifampin were compared with a 6-mo placebo control. Analyzing only 1

the 6-mo isoniazid regimen, and 41% for the 3-mo isoniazid--rifampin regimen. All of these differences were significantly different from the placebo group and about 4% per year in the three active-treatment regimens combined.

The largest programmatic experience using rifampin-based treatment of LTBI comes from Blackburn, England, where child mortality was shortened from 9 to 3 mo, and the proportion of pediatric TB case patients as a percentage of all reported cases decreased from childhood TB in this city. Thus, this regimen is currently recommended for the treatment of both adults and children with LTBI. *Clinical trials in HIV-positive persons.* Most clinical trials of rifampin-based treatment of LTBI have been conducted among HIV-infected persons. The rifampin--pyrazinamide regimen taken daily for 3 mo in tuberculin-positive persons (84). The isoniazid--rifampin regimen provided 50% protection against TB. The Zambia study also evaluated a self-administered regimen of rifampin and pyrazinamide taken twice weekly for 3 mo. In this study, the level of protection conferred by rifampin and pyrazinamide was 70%, comparable with that conferred by 6 mo of isoniazid. In two trials, rifampin and pyrazinamide regimens have been compared with regimens of isoniazid alone in tuberculin-positive persons. In one trial, rifampin and pyrazinamide, with half of the doses directly observed (110). Protection at 12 mo was similar in the two groups, and, compared with isoniazid alone, reduced the risk for TB by approximately 80%. A multinational study comparing a 12-mo regimen of isoniazid taken daily with a 2-mo regimen of rifampin and pyrazinamide taken daily with isoniazid. All patients were enrolled and followed for an average of 3 yr. The annual risk of culture-confirmed TB was 0.8% for patients as compared with 1.2% for patients receiving isoniazid. In conclusion, as evidenced by the large multinational study, a 2-mo regimen of rifampin and pyrazinamide taken daily provides protection against TB that is comparable with that of a 12-mo isoniazid treatment regimen. The only study that has evaluated a rifampin-alone regimen, the Hong Kong study, found that a 2-mo regimen of rifampin provided 50% protection against TB. In the Uganda study, 3-mo regimens of a) isoniazid and rifampin and b) isoniazid, rifampin, and pyrazinamide provided protection against TB that was comparable with that of a 12-mo isoniazid regimen. All of the studies of treatment of LTBI in HIV-infected persons included death and/or progression of HIV disease as endpoints. In the multinational study, persons receiving the 2-mo regimen had lower mortality rates and less progression of HIV disease, a finding that was not seen in the other studies.

Safety and tolerability. Before the conduct of the studies in HIV-infected persons, a pilot study to assess the safety and tolerability of rifampin and pyrazinamide, 4 mo of rifampin only, or 6 mo of isoniazid. The rifampin--pyrazinamide regimen was well tolerated, with fewer adverse reactions (isoniazid group) and more frequent adverse reactions resulting in drug discontinuation (15 compared with none in the rifampin and pyrazinamide group) in HIV-infected persons. In the study involving HIV-positive populations and those described in a clinical trial of isoniazid, rifampin, and pyrazinamide for the treatment of LTBI, the rifampin and pyrazinamide regimen was well tolerated. Two smaller pilot studies of rifampin and pyrazinamide treatment of LTBI using identical protocols were conducted in adult and child populations. In both studies, children in Germany tolerated the regimens well and did not experience changes in hepatic function.

In the Hong Kong study of patients with silicosis, no significant differences were noted in the occurrence of severe adverse reactions during treatment.

In the clinical trials involving HIV-infected persons, a trend of increased adverse reactions occurred among persons taking a higher dose of rifampin, including higher rates of paresthesias, arthralgias, and significant increases in serum AST (84). The multinational study reported more adverse reactions commonly because of nausea and vomiting and narcotic withdrawal (111). However, abnormal liver function tests were more common in persons receiving rifampin and pyrazinamide. In the Haiti study conducted during 1990--1994 and the Zambia study, regimens of twice-weekly rifampin and pyrazinamide were well tolerated. The rifampin and pyrazinamide regimen differ by regimen (110). In the Zambia study, 3% of persons given isoniazid stopped treatment because of an adverse reaction, whereas 10% of persons given rifampin and pyrazinamide stopped treatment because of an adverse reaction.

Adherence

Testing for and treating LTBI requires several steps, including administering the test, reading the test, medically evaluating the test, and initiating treatment. Nonadherence occurs commonly in all steps of the treatment process.

The health care system can compromise patient adherence to testing and treatment of LTBI (117). A lengthy referral process and lack of information can discourage patients from attending follow-up visits. Other factors that may affect adherence with testing and treatment include lack of knowledge, lack of motivation, and lack of resources. Since the advent of effective chemotherapy for active TB, adherence to treatment regimens has been recognized as a substantial barrier to the successful treatment of TB. For LTBI, adherence to treatment regimens has been recognized as a substantial barrier to the successful treatment of LTBI. Since the advent of effective chemotherapy for active TB, adherence to treatment regimens has been recognized as a substantial barrier to the successful treatment of TB. For LTBI, adherence to treatment regimens has been recognized as a substantial barrier to the successful treatment of LTBI. Since the advent of effective chemotherapy for active TB, adherence to treatment regimens has been recognized as a substantial barrier to the successful treatment of TB. For LTBI, adherence to treatment regimens has been recognized as a substantial barrier to the successful treatment of LTBI.

The Haiti study of rifampin and pyrazinamide taken twice weekly and the multinational study both reported better adherence to treatment regimens. In the Haiti study, 80% of persons taking rifampin and pyrazinamide have taken $\geq 80\%$ of the prescribed medication compared with 55% of persons taking isoniazid for 6 mo (110). Nonadherence to treatment regimens was more common in persons taking isoniazid (2-mo rifampin and pyrazinamide regimen compared with 69% for the 12-mo isoniazid regimen (111). In the pilot study of HIV-infected persons, adherence to treatment regimens was better in persons taking rifampin and pyrazinamide (80% nonadherent, compared with about 20% of those assigned to the 6-mo isoniazid regimen (113). However, overall completion rates were similar. Determinants of adherence to treatment of TB and LTBI are not well understood (118). For example, demographic factors and socioeconomic factors adversely affect adherence (119). The main strategies that have been employed to promote adherence with treatment of TB and LTBI include directly observed therapy (DOT) (64), and directly observed therapy (DOT) (64).

The intervention most likely to improve adherence for treatment of LTBI has been DOT, which requires direct observation of therapy. Although randomized trials have yet to be reported, available information suggests that DOT improves adherence (67).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Implementation of Targeted Tuberculin Testing

Decision to Tuberculin Test Is Decision to Treat

Targeted tuberculin testing programs should be designed for one purpose: to identify persons at high risk for TB who would have infection with *M. tuberculosis* and those who, regardless of duration of infection, are at increased risk for progression to active disease (e.g., persons who are employed in a setting where TB transmission may occur), screening of low-risk persons is discouraged because it diverts resources from high-risk persons and may have false-positive skin tests (73).

Testing is also discouraged unless a plan has been developed to complete a course of treatment in persons found to have LTBI under medical supervision of the course of treatment.

Identification and Access to High-risk Groups

A flexible approach to identifying high-risk groups is recommended, and state and local public health agencies are encouraged to assess the local epidemiology of TB. Thus designing and conducting skin-test-screening surveys to determine whether population groups are at high risk for TB in community health centers and schools serving foreign-born persons, and selected community-based organizations. Mandated testing of high-risk groups contain substantial proportions of persons at high risk (126).

Role of the Health Department

In this community-based approach to targeted testing and treatment of LTBI, the health department TB program should be involved in assessing the community's TB problem, identifying high-risk groups based on the local epidemiology of TB, and ascertaining the need for a community-based approach, recruiting health professionals, educating such professionals about TB, and motivating them to institute targeted testing and treatment programs. The health department should assist in identifying potential funding sources, developing written protocols for activities including patient tracking and skin testing, and patient and provider educational materials, and antituberculosis drugs. Finally, the health department should be responsible for providing or facilitating the ongoing evaluation of testing and treatment (e.g., proportion of tests read that are positive, and initiation and completion rates of treatment). The health department should also be responsible for the treatment of LTBI in the community.

To achieve a high rate of acceptance of testing and completion of treatment in a community-based program, barriers to success are unfamiliar to most persons, and education of the patient is essential (120). Other known barriers include culturally derived beliefs, the cost of medical evaluation and treatment, and lack of access to medical care (118). Patients should not be expected to complete treatment, the more likely patients will adhere to therapy especially as targeted testing and treatment of LTBI are extended to underserved populations.

Diagnosis of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

Tuberculin Skin Testing

Administering and reading tests. The tuberculin test, like all medical tests, is subject to variability, but many of the inherent limitations of the intradermal, or Mantoux, method. It is administered by injecting 0.1 ml of 5 tuberculin units (TU) PPD intradermally into the forearm. The reaction is recorded in millimeters. Multiple puncture tests (i.e., Tine and Heaf) and PPD strengths of 1 TU and 250 TU are not sufficient for diagnosis.

Interpreting skin-test reactions. Based on the sensitivity and specificity of the tuberculin skin test and the prevalence of TB in the community, persons at high risk for developing TB disease if they become infected with *M. tuberculosis* (e.g., persons with HIV infection, persons with systemic corticosteroids) have a high likelihood of developing TB disease if they are infected with *M. tuberculosis*. Likewise, persons with HIV infection are at high risk for TB. Thus, to ensure that persons at highest risk are evaluated and appropriately treated, the sensitivity and specificity of the skin test should be high. A reaction of ≥ 10 mm of induration should be considered positive for those persons with an increased probability of recent infection (e.g., persons with HIV infection) (Table 7). In addition to those groups listed, high-prevalence populations identified by analysis of local epidemiologic data should be tested. Routine tuberculin testing is not recommended for populations at low risk for LTBI. However, if these persons are tested (e.g., persons with HIV infection), a reaction of ≥ 15 mm is recommended.

Skin-test conversion. For persons with negative tuberculin skin-test reactions who undergo repeat skin testing (e.g., health care workers), a positive reaction indicates infection with *M. tuberculosis*.

Previous vaccination with BCG. Tuberculin skin testing is not contraindicated for persons who have been vaccinated with BCG. The Mantoux method can reliably distinguish tuberculin reactions caused by vaccination with BCG from those caused by natural mycobacterial infection. Persons who have been vaccinated with BCG and who are at increased risk for recent infection or has medical conditions that increase the risk for disease (Table 7).

Anergy testing in persons infected with HIV. Anergy testing is not recommended for routine use in persons who are infected with HIV.

Chest Radiographs

A chest radiograph is indicated for all persons being considered for treatment of LTBI to exclude active pulmonary TB. Chest radiographs; additional radiographs should be performed at the physician's discretion. Because of the risk for progressive and disseminated TB disease, persons with infectious TB disease should have chest radiographs (with appropriate shielding) as soon as feasible, even during treatment. If chest radiographs are normal and no symptoms consistent with active TB are present, tuberculin-positive persons may be considered for treatment. If chest radiographs are abnormal, medical evaluation, bacteriologic examinations, and a comparison of the current and old chest radiographs) should be done to determine the extent of disease.

Sputum Examinations

Sputum examination is not indicated for most persons being considered for treatment of LTBI. However, persons with chest radiographs that show only calcified pulmonary nodules do not require sputum examination. Most persons with radiographs that show only calcified pulmonary nodules do not require sputum examination, even if the chest radiograph is normal. If the results of sputum examination are negative but the activity or etiology of a radiographic abnormality is questionable, further evaluation is indicated. In such situations, multidrug therapy can be started and continued pending results of sputum cultures. A repeat chest radiograph should be obtained.

Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis Infection

Individual Drugs

Isoniazid. Isoniazid is the most widely used of the antituberculosis agents—it is bactericidal, relatively nontoxic, easily administered (100 mg/d). Absorption from the gastrointestinal tract is nearly complete, with peak serum concentrations of 2–5 µg/ml occurring 1–2 h after ingestion. Hepatitis is the most severe toxic effect of isoniazid, and alcohol consumption may increase toxicity (126) at a dose of 5 mg/kg. In persons with conditions in which neuropathy is common (e.g., diabetes, uremia, alcoholism, malnutrition), pyridoxine and isoniazid. Mild central nervous system effects are common with isoniazid and may necessitate adjustments in the dose of both drugs. When these drugs are given concomitantly, the serum level of phenytoin should be monitored. No known interactions exist between isoniazid and rifampin.
Rifampin. Rifampin is a rifamycin derivative that is bactericidal for *M. tuberculosis*. Most strains of *M. tuberculosis* are inhibited by rifampin occurring 1.5–3.0 h after ingestion. Although approximately 75% of the drug is protein bound, it penetrates well into tissues and is effective in inflamed areas. The most common adverse reaction to rifampin is gastrointestinal upset. Other reactions include skin eruptions, nosebleeds, and enzyme induction. Rifampin may accelerate clearance of drugs metabolized by the liver (e.g., methadone, coumadin derivatives, glucocorticoids), and the metabolism of estrogen, rifampin may interfere with the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. In persons with HIV infection, rifampin may increase rifampin levels and decrease protease-inhibitor levels, resulting in increased risk for rifampin toxicity and decreased effectiveness of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs). Intermittent administration of doses of rifampin >10 mg/kg may be as effective as the recommended dose of 10 mg/kg/d. Rifampin is excreted in urine, tears, sweat, and other body fluids and colors them orange.
Pyrazinamide. Pyrazinamide is bactericidal for *M. tuberculosis* in an acid environment. The drug is active against organisms in the sputum. The recommended dose of pyrazinamide is 20 mg/kg/d. Absorption from the gastrointestinal tract is nearly complete, with peak serum concentration occurring 1–2 h after ingestion. The most severe adverse reaction is liver injury. No substantial increase in hepatotoxicity results from pyrazinamide, but acute gout is uncommon (127). No known interactions exist between pyrazinamide and antiretroviral medications.
Rifabutin. Rifabutin is another rifamycin that is highly active against *M. tuberculosis*. Its mechanism of action is the same as that of rifampin. The recommended dose of rifabutin is 300 mg/d. A dose of 300 mg results in peak serum concentrations of 5 µg/ml after 23 h. The major advantage of rifabutin is that it is not metabolized in the liver (and to a lesser extent in the intestinal wall); only 8% of a dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. Side effects include myalgias, and dysgeusia. Hepatotoxicity is rare, but rifabutin can cause drug-induced hepatitis. Rates of side effects increase with higher doses. Rifabutin may also cause uveitis (128) and abnormal skin pigmentation (129). Similar to rifampin, rifabutin can also decrease concentrations and clinical effectiveness of dapsone, ketoconazole, and cyclosporin, as well as itraconazole, β-blockers, and theophylline. Doses of these medications may need to be adjusted. Rifabutin may lead to increased levels of rifabutin and decreased levels of the protease inhibitor; however, these effects are generally mild and may also necessitate rifabutin dose adjustment.

Treatment Regimens

Treatment of LTBI is an essential part of the strategy to eliminate TB in the United States. Persons with LTBI who are included in the following sections.

U.S. Public Health Service Rating System. To help clinicians make informed treatment decisions based on the most current research, the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) has developed a rating system. The ratings system is similar to that used in previous PHS documents (3) and includes a letter and a Roman numeral: the letter indicates the quality of the evidence (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z, AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AO, AP, AQ, AR, AS, AT, AU, AV, AW, AX, AY, AZ, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK, BL, BM, BN, BO, BP, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BV, BW, BX, BY, BZ, CA, CB, CC, CD, CE, CF, CG, CH, CI, CJ, CK, CL, CM, CN, CO, CP, CQ, CR, CS, CT, CU, CV, CW, CX, CY, CZ, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL, DM, DN, DO, DP, DQ, DR, DS, DT, DU, DV, DW, DX, DY, DZ, EA, EB, EC, ED, EE, EF, EG, EH, EI, EJ, EK, EL, EM, EN, EO, EP, EQ, ER, ES, ET, EU, EV, EW, EX, EY, EZ, FA, FB, FC, FD, FE, FF, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, FM, FN, FO, FP, FQ, FR, FS, FT, FU, FV, FW, FX, FY, FZ, GA, GB, GC, GD, GE, GF, GG, GH, GI, GJ, GK, GL, GM, GN, GO, GP, GQ, GR, GS, GT, GU, GV, GW, GX, GY, GZ, HA, HB, HC, HD, HE, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, HM, HN, HO, HP, HQ, HR, HS, HT, HU, HV, HW, HX, HY, HZ, IA, IB, IC, ID, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL, IM, IN, IO, IP, IQ, IR, IS, IT, IU, IV, IW, IX, IY, IZ, JA, JB, JC, JD, JE, JF, JG, JH, JI, JJ, JK, JL, JM, JN, JO, JP, JQ, JR, JS, JT, JU, JV, JW, JX, JY, JZ, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, KM, KN, KO, KP, KQ, KR, KS, KT, KU, KV, KW, KX, KY, KZ, LA, LB, LC, LD, LE, LF, LG, LH, LI, LJ, LK, LL, LM, LN, LO, LP, LQ, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LW, LX, LY, LZ, MA, MB, MC, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, ML, MM, MN, MO, MP, MQ, MR, MS, MT, MU, MV, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NF, NG, NH, NI, NJ, NK, NL, NM, NN, NO, NP, NQ, NR, NS, NT, NU, NV, NW, NX, NY, NZ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OE, OF, OG, OH, OI, OJ, OK, OL, OM, ON, OO, OP, OQ, OR, OS, OT, OU, OV, OW, OX, OY, OZ, PA, PB, PC, PD, PE, PF, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, PM, PN, PO, PP, PQ, PR, PS, PT, PU, PV, PW, PX, PY, PZ, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QO, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, QY, QZ, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RH, RI, RJ, RK, RL, RM, RN, RO, RP, RQ, RR, RS, RT, RU, RV, RW, RX, RY, RZ, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SI, SJ, SK, SL, SM, SN, SO, SP, SQ, SR, SS, ST, SU, SV, SW, SX, SY, SZ, TA, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG, TH, TI, TJ, TK, TL, TM, TN, TO, TP, TQ, TR, TS, TT, TU, TV, TW, TX, TY, TZ, UA, UB, UC, UD, UE, UF, UG, UH, UI, UJ, UK, UL, UM, UN, UO, UP, UQ, UR, US, UT, UY, UZ, VA, VB, VC, VD, VE, VF, VG, VH, VI, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VP, VQ, VR, VS, VT, VU, VV, VW, VX, VY, VZ, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WF, WG, WH, WI, WJ, WK, WL, WM, WN, WO, WP, WQ, WR, WS, WT, WU, WV, WW, WX, WY, WZ, XA, XB, XC, XD, XE, XF, XG, XH, XI, XJ, XK, XL, XM, XN, XO, XP, XQ, XR, XS, XT, XU, XV, XW, XX, XY, XZ, YA, YB, YC, YD, YE, YF, YG, YH, YI, YJ, YK, YL, YM, YN, YO, YP, YQ, YR, YS, YT, YU, YV, YW, YX, YY, YZ, ZA, ZB, ZC, ZD, ZE, ZF, ZG, ZH, ZI, ZJ, ZK, ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP, ZQ, ZR, ZS, ZT, ZU, ZV, ZW, ZX, ZY, ZZ).

Recommended regimens. Four regimens are recommended for the treatment of adults with LTBI (Table 10). The antituberculous regimen should receive DOT, because nonadherence to intermittent dosing results in a larger proportion of the total population with TB. For persons in institutional settings, community outreach programs, and for some persons living in households with patients who are receiving DOT, the recommended regimen is 9 months of isoniazid. **Isoniazid for 9 mo.** The isoniazid daily regimen for 9 mo receives an A recommendation. Prospective, randomized trials of isoniazid for 9 mo have shown that no additional benefit is gained by extending treatment to 12 mo. Thus, this updated recommendation represents a shortening of the previous recommendation for 12 mo. Both 12-mo and 6-mo regimens of isoniazid have substantially reduced rates of TB in HIV-infected persons (1). The recommendation for 9 mo of isoniazid in HIV-infected persons is based on extrapolation of available data. Intermittent dosing is acceptable for active TB (where twice-weekly dosing is equivalent to daily dosing), twice-weekly dosing of isoniazid is also acceptable for LTBI. **Isoniazid for 6 mo.** Although a 9-mo regimen of isoniazid is the preferred treatment of LTBI for an individual patient, a 6-mo regimen is recommended for persons (32,84). From a societal perspective, treatment for 6 mo rather than 9 mo may provide a more cost-effective outcome. Isoniazid for 6 mo, taken either daily or twice weekly, is recommended at the B level for persons with radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis.

Rifampin and pyrazinamide for 2 mo. The 2-mo daily regimen of rifampin and pyrazinamide is recommended on the basis of its efficacy to a 12-mo regimen of isoniazid (111). Although this regimen has not been evaluated in HIV-uninfected persons with radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis, it is recommended at the A level for HIV-infected persons and at the B level for HIV-uninfected persons until further data are available. Two randomized trials (86, 110); in neither case was the sample size adequate to conclude with certainty that efficacy was equivalent to daily dosing. **Rifampin and pyrazinamide given twice weekly for 2–3 mo** may be considered when alternative regimens cannot be given. **Rifampin for 4 mo.** Rifampin given daily for 3 mo has resulted in better protection than placebo in treatment of LTBI in HIV-infected persons (4%), experts have concluded that a 4-mo regimen would be more prudent when using rifampin alone. This 4-mo regimen is recommended at the B level for persons who cannot tolerate isoniazid or pyrazinamide.

Choice of regimen. Because more than one regimen can be used to treat LTBI, health care providers should discuss options and include the length and complexity of the regimens, possible adverse effects, and potential drug interactions.

Completion of treatment. Completion of therapy is based on total number of doses administered—not on duration of therapy in therapy. The 6-mo regimen of isoniazid should consist of at least 180 doses administered within 9 mo. Twice-weekly isoniazid. The daily regimen of rifampin (or rifabutin) and pyrazinamide should consist of at least 60 doses to be administered within 3 mo. Ideally, patients should receive medication on a regular dosing schedule until completion of the indicated course. However, in some situations, clinicians might need to continue the regimen originally prescribed (as long as needed to complete the recommended duration of therapy). In either situation, when therapy is restored after an interruption of more than 2 mo, a medical examination to assess response is recommended.

Special considerations.

Treatment of HIV-infected persons. Recommendations for HIV-infected adults largely parallel those for HIV-uninfected adults. For LTBI in persons with HIV infection, 9 mo is recommended rather than 6 mo. In addition, rifampin is generally contraindicated in HIV-infected persons who are candidates for treatment of LTBI and need PI or NNRTI therapy, rifabutin can be substituted for rifampin, zalcitabine, saquinavir, or delavirdine. Caution is advised if rifabutin is administered with soft-gel saquinavir, because data regarding use of rifabutin with saquinavir are limited. No specific data have been generated for treatment of LTBI with rifabutin-containing regimens, but such a recommendation is based on studies in mice (107,130). Rifabutin can be administered at one half the usual daily dose (i.e., reduced from 300 mg to 150 mg daily). The daily rifabutin dose is 450 mg or 600 mg when used with efavirenz; pharmacokinetic studies suggest that rifabutin might be more likely more complex; in such situations, the use of rifabutin is not recommended until additional data are available. The substitution of rifabutin for rifampin in persons with HIV (131). Furthermore, the drug interactions between rifapentine and HIV protease inhibitors have not been studied in detail (132).

In tuberculin-negative, HIV-infected persons, treatment of LTBI has not been effective (3). However, most tuberculin-negative persons who are candidates for treatment of LTBI. Furthermore, some experts recommend treatment of possible LTBI for HIV-infected persons who are candidates for treatment of LTBI.

Persons with fibrotic lesions/suspected disease. For patients who have a chest radiograph demonstrating old fibrotic lesions, treatment for TB, three acceptable regimens can be used for treatment. These regimens include 9 mo of isoniazid, 2 mo of rifampin, and 4 mo of pyrazinamide if the tuberculin skin test is positive and other causes of the radiographic abnormalities have been excluded. Patients who begin multidrug therapy for suspected pulmonary TB but are subsequently determined not to have active disease should continue with rifampin and pyrazinamide if the tuberculin skin test is positive and other causes of the radiographic abnormalities have been excluded. Persons with evidence suggestive of healed, primary TB (i.e., calcified solitary pulmonary nodules, calcified hilar lymph nodes) should be considered for treatment after consideration of other risk factors and the size of the tuberculin reaction (Table 7).

Pregnancy and lactation. Pregnancy has minimal influence on the pathogenesis of TB or the likelihood of LTBI progression. Studies have not demonstrated an effect of pregnancy on cutaneous delayed hypersensitivity to tuberculin (136, 137). The current recommendation is to treat pregnant women. There is no evidence that the tuberculin skin test has adverse effects on the pregnant mother or fetus (138).

Pregnant women should be targeted for tuberculin skin testing only if they have a specific risk factor for LTBI or for progression to active disease. Some experts prefer to delay treatment until after delivery because pregnancy itself does not increase the risk of progression to active disease or hepatotoxicity (91, 92). However, because conditions that promote hematogenous spread of organisms to the placenta (e.g., active TB) in pregnant women with these conditions and LTBI should be treated during pregnancy and have careful clinical and laboratory monitoring. Consequences to both the mother and her child should active disease develop.

Extensive use of isoniazid during pregnancy has indicated that although it readily crosses the placental barrier, the drug is not teratogenic. The use of rifampin had abnormalities (i.e., limb reductions, central nervous system abnormalities, and hypoprothrombinemia) in the fetus of a woman who used rifampin in the mother (141). However, extensive experience with the use of rifampin to treat TB in pregnant women has not indicated any abnormalities concerning the effects of the drug on the fetus. Thus, although pyrazinamide may be considered after the first trimester in women who are not infected with HIV or who have been infected recently, initiation of therapy should not be delayed on the basis of pregnancy. The preferred regimen for treatment of LTBI in pregnant women is isoniazid, administered either daily or twice weekly. All pregnant women who are infected with HIV or who have been infected recently, initiation of therapy should not be delayed on the basis of pregnancy. Pregnant women taking isoniazid should receive pyridoxine supplementation.

Toxic effects of antituberculosis drugs delivered in breast milk have not been reported. One study concluded that a breastfeeding infant should not be treated with antituberculosis drugs (143). Breastfeeding is not contraindicated when the mother is being treated for LTBI. However, if the mother is being treated with rifampin, breastfeeding is inadequate for treatment of the infant.

Children and adolescents. Several fundamental aspects of the natural history and treatment of LTBI in children must be considered. Children who are infected recently, and are at high risk for progression to disease. Data suggest that untreated infants with LTBI have up to a 4-fold higher risk than older children and adults to develop life-threatening forms of TB, especially meningitis and disseminated disease. Child with several large clinical trials demonstrating risk reduction of 70-90% (145,146). The risk for isoniazid-related hepatitis is rare in children. Because of differences in pathogenesis of TB infection and disease in children compared with adults, information from clinical trials of treatment of LTBI in children have studied isoniazid alone.

The only recommended regimen for treatment of LTBI in HIV-uninfected children is a 9-mo course of isoniazid as self-administered. Isoniazid should be considered in children at risk for hepatic disease. When children taking antituberculosis therapy develop hepatitis, a search for other causes of hepatitis is recommended for children taking isoniazid, but should be given to (1) breastfeeding infants, (2) children and adolescents with active disease. Isoniazid given twice weekly has been used extensively to treat LTBI in children, especially schoolchildren and close contacts of children with active disease.

contraceptives are at increased risk for becoming pregnant and should be advised to consider an additional form of contraception for each patient.

Baseline laboratory testing is not routinely indicated for all patients at the start of treatment for LTBI (Table 8). Patients who are at risk for chronic liver disease. Baseline testing is also indicated for patients infected with HIV, pregnant women and those in the immediate postpartum period, those who consume alcohol regularly, and others who are at risk for chronic liver disease. Baseline testing is no longer routinely indicated in patients taking medications for chronic medical conditions. Active hepatitis and end-stage liver disease are relative contraindications to the use of rifampin. *Monitoring of treatment.* Clinical monitoring is indicated for all patients; this involves education of patients about the symptoms to watch for and evaluation should symptoms occur. These include any of the following: unexplained anorexia, nausea, vomiting, dark urine, (especially right upper quadrant discomfort), easy bruising or bleeding, and arthralgia (Table 8). Clinical monitoring begins with the patient's health care providers immediately upon the onset of such symptoms or any unexplained illness occurring during treatment.

Patients being treated for LTBI should receive a clinical evaluation, including a brief physical assessment checking for signs and symptoms (Table 8). These evaluations represent opportunities to review the indications for treatment, adherence with therapy since the last visit, and to discuss the questionnaire may facilitate those interviews.

Routine laboratory monitoring during treatment of LTBI is indicated for patients whose baseline liver function tests are abnormal, those who have symptoms compatible with hepatotoxicity or a uric acid measurement to evaluate patients who develop acute arthritis) should be reported if the patient's transaminase level exceeds 3 times the upper limit of normal if associated with symptoms and five times the upper limit of normal. *Reporting of serious adverse events.* Practitioners and other health professionals should report serious adverse events associated with hospitalization, permanent disability, or death. Reporting may be by mail, telephone (1-800-FDA-1088), fax (1-800-FDA-1088).

PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Diagnosis

The only widely available method to detect LTBI is the tuberculin skin test. However, the specificity of the test is decreased in immunodeficient persons, and low, the test's positive predictive value is poor. In addition, the requirement that the person tested return for the test to be repeated is a barrier for persons at greatest risk for progressing to active disease. Especially useful would be tests that distinguish skin-test reactions caused by living organisms, and tests that accurately identify LTBI in immunodeficient persons.

Operational Research

Acceptability, Tolerability, and Effectiveness of Daily Rifampin and Pyrazinamide

More data are needed regarding the acceptability, tolerability, and effectiveness of the 2-mo regimen of daily rifampin and pyrazinamide. ***Intermittent Rifampin-containing Regimens***

No studies of rifampin alone taken twice weekly for the treatment of LTBI have been conducted. Data from two studies in HIV-infected persons are promisingly effective (86,110). Before additional trials of intermittent rifampin regimens are undertaken, animal model data are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of ***Isoniazid Taken Twice Weekly***

It is unlikely that a formal efficacy study of intermittent isoniazid for the treatment of LTBI will be undertaken, unless it is in the form of a pilot study. Data from these programs should be examined, especially as they relate to acceptability and completion of treatment.

Studies in Children and Pregnant Women

Studies are needed to provide information regarding the use of newer regimens for the treatment of LTBI in children and pregnant women. Studies are needed to establish the safety and effectiveness of newer regimens. Studies would be HIV-infected children in places in which TB is prevalent and household contacts of TB case patients. In addition, studies are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative therapies for MDR LTBI in children are needed. Finally, epidemiologic research to determine the effectiveness of newer regimens is needed.

Reporting and Monitoring in New Settings

These recommendations call for the establishment of LTBI treatment programs in new community settings (e.g., managed care settings other than health departments). These studies should assess the knowledge base of treating clinicians and identify the barriers to implementation.

Combination Rifampin and Pyrazinamide Preparations

If field and programmatic data establish the effectiveness and acceptability of the rifampin and pyrazinamide regimen for the treatment of LTBI, studies are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of combination products in preventing the emergence of drug resistance in patients with active TB is not as compelling for patients with active TB as for patients with latent TB (165). Medication for 2 wk of treatment for several different body weights) would be useful.

Efficacy Studies of New Drugs

No novel compounds currently can be considered candidates for the treatment of LTBI. However, several rifamycin derivatives are being evaluated. In experimental studies involving mice, the combination of rifapentine and isoniazid given once weekly for 3 mo was as effective as the standard regimen. Rifapentine could be dosed less frequently without compromising efficacy (166). The class of nitroimidazole compounds is also of interest. Preclinical evaluation of new drugs.

Studies of Immunomodulators and Vaccines

Recent studies have indicated that immunotherapy with specific cytokines and immunomodulators may be beneficial to response to treatment. Studies of certain cytokines (e.g., interferon gamma) may protect against the development of active TB. If further studies support this approach, a postinfection vaccine to be administered to persons with LTBI has been given high priority (168).

Decision/Cost-Effectiveness Analyses

Focus on Testing for and Treatment of Latent TB Infection in High-risk and Diverse Populations

Future decision and cost-effectiveness analyses should be expanded to include targeted testing. Instead of beginning at the "t high risk and specific subgroups characterized by varied risks and benefits of treatment. Using this conceptual framework wi

Comparison of Strategies Using Both Shorter and Longer Treatment Regimens

Future decision and cost-effectiveness analyses should compare the shorter course regimens to the longer, 9-mo regimen of c presumably will be better with shorter treatment regimens, the rifampin and pyrazinamide regimen may be less well-tolerated models until investigations better establish these risks. By investigating the effect of a range of toxicities and adherence on th drug-resistant LTBI are also needed.

Use of Multiple Analytic Perspectives

When two different perspectives are relevant for a decision, both perspectives should be modeled and analyzed. For example decision models. When decision analysis is inadequate to deal with public health issues (e.g., reduction in contagion), additic Policies designed to target and treat populations at high risk for TB are motivated by the need to benefit the individual patien groups for testing and treatment, the social and ethical ramifications of these policies must be considered. The individual per (e.g., persons who are homeless, incarcerated, and medically underserved, and residents in long-term care facilities). Ideally, important to the general public.

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