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Treatment of Tuberculosis

American Thoracic Society, CDC, and Infectious Diseases Society of America

Please note: An erratum has been published for this article. To view the erratum, please click [here](#).

This Official Joint Statement of the American Thoracic Society, CDC, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America was published in 2002. This report appeared in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* (2003;167:603–62) and is also available in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) readership.

Purpose

The recommendations in this document are intended to guide the treatment of tuberculosis in settings where mycobacteriology services are available. In areas where these resources are not available, the recommendations provided by the World Health Organization should be followed.

What's New In This Document

- The responsibility for successful treatment is clearly assigned to the public health program or private provider, not the patient.
- It is strongly recommended that the initial treatment strategy utilize patient-centered case management with an adherence-contracting strategy.
- Recommended treatment regimens are rated according to the strength of the evidence supporting their use. Where possible, the preferred regimen is identified.
- Emphasis is placed on the importance of obtaining sputum cultures at the time of completion of the initial phase of treatment.
- Extended treatment is recommended for patients with drug-susceptible pulmonary tuberculosis who have cavitation on chest radiograph after initial treatment is completed.
- The roles of rifabutin, rifapentine, and the fluoroquinolones are discussed and a regimen with rifapentine in a once-daily regimen is recommended.
- Practical aspects of therapy, including drug administration, use of fixed-dose combination preparations, monitoring of adverse effects, and treatment completion are discussed.
- Treatment completion is defined by number of doses ingested, as well as the duration of treatment administration.
- Special treatment situations, including human immunodeficiency virus infection, tuberculosis in children, extrapulmonary tuberculosis, and renal disease are discussed in detail.
- The management of tuberculosis caused by drug-resistant organisms is updated.
- These recommendations are compared with those of the WHO and the IUATLD and the DOTS strategy is described.
- The current status of research to improve treatment is reviewed.

Summary

Responsibility for Successful Treatment

The overall goals for treatment of tuberculosis are 1) to cure the individual patient, and 2) to minimize the transmission of *M. tuberculosis* to others. For this reason the prescribing physician is responsible not only for prescribing an appropriate regimen but also for successful completion of therapy. Prescribing physician and public health program both have a role in ensuring that adequate, appropriate diagnostic and treatment services are available, and for monitoring the response to therapy. However, given a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, oversight of treatment may be shared between a public health program and the private provider.

Organization and Supervision of Treatment

Treatment of patients with tuberculosis is most successful within a comprehensive framework that addresses both clinical and social circumstances (patient-centered care). Patients may be managed in the private or public setting. The public health program is responsible for ensuring that adequate, appropriate diagnostic and treatment services are available, and for monitoring the response to therapy. It is strongly recommended that patient-centered care be the initial management strategy, regardless of the source of supervision. Directly observed therapy (DOT), in which patients are observed to ingest each dose of antituberculosis medications, to maximize the likelihood of adherence to therapy. Patient-centered approach to case management (enhanced DOT) have higher rates of treatment completion than less intensive approaches. Such measures may include, for example, social service support, treatment incentives, and adherence-contracting strategies.

coordination of tuberculosis services with those of other providers.

Recommended Treatment Regimens

The recommended treatment regimens are, in large part, based on evidence from clinical trials and are rated on the basis of a Diseases Society of America (IDSA). The rating system includes a letter (A, B, C, D, or E) that indicates the strength of the supporting the recommendation ([Table 1](#)).

There are four recommended regimens for treating patients with tuberculosis caused by drug-susceptible organisms. Although specified circumstances, described subsequently. Each regimen has an initial phase of 2 months followed by a choice of seven together with the number of doses specified by the regimen are described in [Table 2](#). The initial phases are denoted by a number plus a letter designation (a, b, or c). Drug doses are shown in [Tables 3, 4, and 5](#).

The general approach to treatment is summarized in [Figure 1](#). Because of the relatively high proportion of adult patients with initial phase for the 6-month regimen to be maximally effective. Thus, in most circumstances, the treatment regimen for all a (INH), rifampin (RIF), pyrazinamide (PZA), and ethambutol (EMB) ([Table 2](#), Regimens 1--3). If (when) drug susceptibility children whose visual acuity cannot be monitored, EMB is usually not recommended except when there is an increased likelihood "adult-type" (upper lobe infiltration, cavity formation) tuberculosis. If PZA cannot be included in the initial phase of treatment consist of INH, RIF, and EMB given daily for 2 months (Regimen 4). Examples of circumstances in which PZA may be with initial phase of Regimen 4 until drug susceptibility is determined.

The initial phase may be given daily throughout (Regimens 1 and 4), daily for 2 weeks and then twice weekly for 6 weeks (R EMB can be discontinued as soon as the results of drug susceptibility studies demonstrate that the isolate is susceptible to IN suggests that EMB can be discontinued safely in less than 2 months (i.e., when susceptibility test results are known), but then Although clinical trials have shown that the efficacy of streptomycin (SM) is approximately equal to that of EMB in the initial less useful. Thus, SM is not recommended as being interchangeable with EMB unless the organism is known to be susceptible The continuation phase ([Table 2](#)) of treatment is given for either 4 or 7 months. The 4-month continuation phase should be used in three groups: patients with cavitary pulmonary tuberculosis caused by drug-susceptible organisms and whose sputum culture phase of treatment did not include PZA; and patients being treated with once weekly INH and rifapentine and whose sputum may be given daily (Regimens 1a and 4a), two times weekly by DOT (Regimens 1b, 2a, and 4b), or three times weekly by D noncavitary pulmonary tuberculosis (as determined by standard chest radiography), and negative sputum smears at completion once weekly for 4 months by DOT (Regimens 1c and 2b) ([Figure 1](#)). If the culture at completion of the initial phase of treatment months. All of the 6-month regimens, except the INH--rifapentine once weekly continuation phase for persons with HIV infection patients. The once-weekly continuation phase is contraindicated (Rating EI) in patients with HIV infection because of an unknown twice weekly treatment, either as part of the initial phase (Regimen 2) or continuation phase (Regimens 1b and 2a), is not recommended receive either daily (initial phase) or three times weekly (continuation phase) treatment. Regimen 4 (and 4a/4b), a 9-month regimen

Deciding To Initiate Treatment

The decision to initiate combination antituberculosis chemotherapy should be based on epidemiologic information; clinical, microbiologic bacilli (AFB)--stained sputum (smears) (as well as other appropriately collected diagnostic specimens) and cultures for mycobacteria initial evaluation, but a negative PPD-tuberculin skin test does not exclude the diagnosis of active tuberculosis. However, a positive tuberculosis, as well as latent tuberculosis infection in persons with stable abnormal chest radiographs consistent with inactive If the suspicion of tuberculosis is high or the patient is seriously ill with a disorder, either pulmonary or extrapulmonary, that regimens should be initiated promptly, often before AFB smear results are known and usually before mycobacterial culture results diagnosis of tuberculosis. If the diagnosis is confirmed by isolation of *M. tuberculosis* or a positive nucleic acid amplification initial AFB smears and cultures are negative, a diagnosis other than tuberculosis should be considered and appropriate evaluation (in this circumstance a reaction of 5 mm or greater induration is considered positive), empirical combination chemotherapy should therapy and no other diagnosis has been established, a diagnosis of culture-negative pulmonary tuberculosis can be made and of treatment, an adequate regimen for culture-negative pulmonary tuberculosis ([Figure 2](#)). If there is no clinical or radiographic tuberculosis considered.

If AFB smears are negative and suspicion for active tuberculosis is low, treatment can be deferred until the results of mycobacterial months) ([Figure 2](#)). In low-suspicion patients not initially being treated, if cultures are negative, the PPD-tuberculin skin test one of the three regimens recommended for the treatment of latent tuberculosis infection could be used. These include (1) IN PZA for a total of 2 months. Because of reports of an increased rate of hepatotoxicity with the RIF--PZA regimen, it should be monitored closely, and do not have contraindications to the use of this regimen.

Baseline and Follow-Up Evaluations

Patients suspected of having tuberculosis should have appropriate specimens collected for microscopic examination and mycobacteria obtained. Sputum induction with hypertonic saline may be necessary to obtain specimens and bronchoscopy (both performed produce sputum, depending on the clinical circumstances. Susceptibility testing for INH, RIF, and EMB should be performed susceptibility testing should be done only in reference laboratories and be limited to specimens from patients who have had previously demonstrated resistance to rifampin or to other first-line drugs, or who have positive cultures after more than 3 months of treatment

It is recommended that all patients with tuberculosis have counseling and testing for HIV infection, at least by the time treatment is initiated. Patients with risk factors for hepatitis B or C viruses (e.g., injection drug use, foreign birth in Asia or Africa, HIV), and measurements of serum amino transferases (aspartate aminotransferase [AST], alanine aminotransferase [ALT]), bilirubin, a visual acuity and red-green color discrimination should be obtained when EMB is to be used.

During treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis, a sputum specimen for microscopic examination and culture should be obtained on culture. More frequent AFB smears may be useful to assess the early response to treatment and to provide an indication of when clinical evaluations will depend on the site involved. In addition, it is critical that patients have clinical evaluations at least monthly throughout treatment. Generally, patients do not require follow-up after completion of therapy but should be instructed to seek care promptly if signs or symptoms of relapse occur. Routine measurements of hepatic and renal function and platelet count are not necessary during treatment unless patients have liver disease (e.g., infection, alcohol abuse). At each monthly visit patients taking EMB should be questioned regarding possible visual disturbances. Color discrimination is recommended for patients taking doses that on a milligram per kilogram basis are greater than those listed in Table 1.

Identification and Management of Patients at Increased Risk of Treatment Failure and Relapse

The presence of cavitation on the initial chest radiograph combined with having a positive sputum culture at the time the initial phase of treatment is completed is a high risk for adverse outcomes (treatment failure, usually defined by positive cultures after 4 months of treatment, or relapse, defined as a positive culture after completion of treatment). For this reason it is particularly important to conduct a microbiological evaluation 2 months after initiation of treatment (Figure 1). Patients who are started on standard four-drug therapy will have negative sputum cultures at this time. Patients with positive sputum cultures after 2 months of treatment and have not been receiving DOT, the most common reasons for relapse include extensive cavitary disease at the time of diagnosis, drug resistance, malabsorption of drugs, laboratory error, and biologic relapse. In USPHS Study 22, nearly 21% of patients in the control arm of the study (a continuation phase of twice weekly INH and RIF) relapsed. Patients who had only one of these factors (either cavitation or a positive 2-month culture) had a relapse rate of 10%. It is recommended that, for patients who have cavitation on the initial chest radiograph and whose 2-month culture is positive, the continuation phase of treatment should be extended to 7 months (Figure 1 and Table 2). The recommendation to lengthen the continuation phase of treatment for patients with silicotuberculosis showing that extending treatment from 6 to 8 months greatly reduced treatment failure. In the trial in which the once weekly INH--rifapentine continuation phase was extended to 7 months for patients at high risk of relapse. The continuation phase was 4 months.

For patients who have either cavitation on the initial film or a positive culture after completing the initial phase of treatment, the continuation phase should be made on an individual basis.

Completion of Treatment

A full course of therapy (completion of treatment) is determined more accurately by the total number of doses taken, not solely by the duration of treatment (below) should consist of at least 182 doses of INH and RIF, and 56 doses of PZA. Thus, 6 months is the minimum duration of treatment with no interruptions in drug administration. In some cases, either because of drug toxicity or nonadherence to the treatment regimen, the goal is to deliver the specified number of doses within a recommended maximum time. For example, for a 6-month daily treatment is not completed within this period, the patient should be assessed to determine the appropriate action to take--corrections may require more restrictive measures to be used to ensure completion.

Clinical experience suggests that patients being managed by DOT administered 5 days/week have a rate of successful therapy similar to that of patients given DOT given 5 days/week and the required number of doses adjusted accordingly. For example, for the 6-month "daily" treatment given 5 days/week has been used in a number of clinical trials, including USPHS Study 22, but has not been evaluated. Patients who might be given the medications to take without DOT on weekends.

Interruptions in treatment may have a significant effect on the duration of therapy. Reinstitution of treatment must take into account the duration of the interruption. In general, the earlier in treatment and the longer the duration of the interruption, the more serious the effect on the duration of therapy.

Practical Aspects of Patient Management During Treatment

The first-line antituberculosis medications should be administered together; split dosing should be avoided. Fixed-dose combinations reduce the risk of acquired drug resistance and medication errors. Fixed-dose combinations may be used when DOT is given daily or with intermittent dosing. It should be noted that for patients weighing more than 90 kg the dose of PZA in the three-drug combination formulations approved for use in the United States: INH and RIF (Rifamate[®]) and INH, RIF, and PZA (Rifater[®]).

Providers treating patients with tuberculosis must be especially vigilant for drug interactions. Given the frequency of comorbid conditions and medications, the effects of which may be altered by the antituberculosis medications, especially the rifamycins. These interactions can be serious. Adverse effects, especially gastrointestinal upset, are relatively common in the first few weeks of antituberculosis therapy; however, minor side effects. Although ingestion with food delays or moderately decreases the absorption of antituberculosis drugs, the combination with the first-line drugs, dosing with meals or changing the hour of dosing is recommended. Administration with food may reduce the risk of drug-induced hepatitis, the most serious common adverse effect, is defined as a serum AST level more than three times the upper limit of normal in the absence of symptoms. If hepatitis occurs with INH, RIF, and PZA, all potential causes of hepatic injury, should be ruled out and should be performed and the patient questioned carefully regarding exposure to other possible hepatotoxins, especially alcohol, amikacin/kanamycin, capreomycin, or a fluoroquinolone (levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, or gatifloxacin), may be used until the limit of normal and symptoms have significantly improved, the first-line medications should be restarted in sequential fashion.

is essential in managing these patients.

Treatment in Special Situations

HIV infection

Recommendations for the treatment of tuberculosis in HIV-infected adults are, with a few exceptions, the same as those for I (Regimens 1c and 2b) is contraindicated in HIV-infected patients because of an unacceptably high rate of relapse, frequently rifampin resistance has also been noted among HIV-infected patients with advanced immunosuppression treated with twice daily treatment. Patients with CD4 counts <100/ μ l should receive daily or three times weekly treatment (Regimen 1/1a or Regimen 3/3a). DOT and other adherence-promoting strategies. Management of HIV-related tuberculosis is complex and requires expertise in the management of both HIV disease and tuberculosis. Many drugs interact with antituberculosis medications, it is strongly encouraged that experts in the treatment of HIV-related tuberculosis be consulted. Other anti-infective drugs. Rifampin can be used for the treatment of tuberculosis with certain combinations of antiretroviral agents. Rifampin and appears to be equally effective although the doses of rifabutin and antiretroviral agents may require adjustment. Recommendations are likely to be modified.

On occasion, patients with HIV-related tuberculosis may experience a temporary exacerbation of symptoms, signs, or radiographic worsening (paradoxical reaction) occurs in HIV-infected patients with active tuberculosis and is thought to be due to immune reactivation. Signs and symptoms may include high fevers, lymphadenopathy, expanding central nervous system lesions, and worsening of chest radiographic findings. If evaluation has excluded other etiologies, particularly tuberculosis treatment failure. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents may be used for 1--2 weeks, then in gradually decreasing doses) may be used, although there are no data from controlled trials to support this practice.

Children

Because of the high risk of disseminated tuberculosis in infants and children younger than 4 years of age, treatment should be recommended for adults are also the regimens of choice for infants, children, and adolescents with tuberculosis, with the exception of childhood-type tuberculosis there is less concern with the development of acquired drug resistance. However, children and adolescents may have sputum production. In such situations an initial phase of four drugs should be given until susceptibility is proven. When clinical response is observed, EMB can be used safely at a dose of 15--20 mg/kg per day, even in children too young for routine eye testing. Streptomycin, ethambutol, and rifampin. Most studies of treatment in children have used 6 months of INH and RIF supplemented during the first 2 months with PZA. The rate of less than 2%. Most treatment studies of intermittent dosing in children have used daily drug administration for the first 2 months. Because it is difficult to isolate *M. tuberculosis* from a child with pulmonary tuberculosis, it is frequently necessary to rely on clinical response to guide the choice of drugs for the child. In cases of suspected drug-resistant tuberculosis in a child or when a source case is identified, morning gastric aspiration, bronchoalveolar lavage, or biopsy.

In general, extrapulmonary tuberculosis in children can be treated with the same regimens as pulmonary disease. Exceptions include meningitis, which requires support 6-month therapy; thus 9--12 months of treatment is recommended.

The optimal treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in children and adolescents with HIV infection is unknown. The American Thoracic Society recommends 6 months of therapy, and the total duration of therapy should be at least 9 months, although there are no data to support this recommendation.

Extrapulmonary tuberculosis

The basic principles that underlie the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis also apply to extrapulmonary forms of the disease. Increasing evidence suggests that 6- to 9-month regimens that include INH and RIF are effective. Thus, a 6-month course of therapy is recommended for meningitis, for which a 9- to 12-month regimen is recommended. Prolongation of therapy also should be considered for patients with tuberculous pericarditis and tuberculous meningitis.

Culture-negative pulmonary tuberculosis and radiographic evidence of prior pulmonary tuberculosis

Failure to isolate *M. tuberculosis* from persons suspected of having pulmonary tuberculosis on the basis of clinical features and radiographic evidence. Alternative diagnoses should be considered carefully and further appropriate diagnostic studies undertaken in persons with a diagnosis of tuberculosis can be strongly inferred by the clinical and radiographic response to antituberculosis treatment. Clinical response has been a response attributable to antituberculosis treatment. If either clinical or radiographic improvement is noted and no other diagnosis has been excluded, regimens in this circumstance include one of the standard 6-month chemotherapy regimens or INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB for 6 months. Persons with a positive tuberculin skin test who have radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis (e.g., upper lobe fibronodular opacities) should be treated for a minimum of 6 months.

Persons with a positive tuberculin skin test who have radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis (e.g., upper lobe fibronodular opacities) should be treated for a minimum of 6 months. Unless previous radiographs are available showing that the abnormality is stable, it is important to assess the possibility of active tuberculosis being present. Also, if the patient has symptoms of tuberculosis related to extrapulmonary disease (e.g., meningitis, pericarditis, etc.) that have been excluded (i.e., by negative cultures and a stable chest radiograph), the treatment regimens are those used for latent tuberculosis for 2 months (for patients who are unlikely to complete a longer course and who can be monitored closely) ([Figure 2](#)).

Renal insufficiency and end-stage renal disease

Specific dosing guidelines for patients with renal insufficiency and end-stage renal disease are provided in [Table 15](#). For patients with renal insufficiency, DOT and to avoid premature removal of drugs such as PZA and cycloserine. To avoid toxicity it is important to monitor serum levels of these drugs. Little information concerning the effects of peritoneal dialysis on clearance of antituberculosis drugs.

Liver disease

INH, RIF, and PZA all can cause hepatitis that may result in additional liver damage in patients with preexisting liver disease.

be used if at all possible, even in the presence of preexisting liver disease. If serum AST is more than three times normal before several treatment options exist. One option is to treat with RIF, EMB, and PZA for 6 months, avoiding INH. A second option if drug susceptibility are demonstrated, thereby avoiding PZA. For patients with severe liver disease a regimen with only one hepatic agent, such as a fluoroquinolone, for the first 2 months; however, there are no data to support this recommendation.

In all patients with preexisting liver disease, frequent clinical and laboratory monitoring should be performed to detect drug-

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Because of the risk of tuberculosis to the fetus, treatment of tuberculosis in pregnant women should be initiated whenever the mother is on therapy with INH, RIF, and EMB. Although all of these drugs cross the placenta, they do not appear to have teratogenic effects. Streptomycin (congenital deafness) and should not be used. Although detailed teratogenicity data are not available, PZA can probably be used. The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD). If PZA is not included in the initial treatment regimen, Breastfeeding should not be discouraged for women being treated with the first-line antituberculosis agents because the small amount of PZA in breast milk is not expected to be effective. Conversely, drugs in breast milk should not be considered to serve as effective treatment for tuberculosis or for latent tuberculosis in all women taking INH who are either pregnant or breastfeeding. The amount of pyridoxine in multivitamins is variable but generally sufficient.

Management of Relapse, Treatment Failure, and Drug Resistance

Relapse refers to the circumstance in which a patient becomes and remains culture negative while receiving therapy but, at some time, has radiographic deterioration that is consistent with active tuberculosis. In the latter situation rigorous efforts should be made to detect drug resistance. Most relapses occur within the first 6-12 months after completion of therapy. In nearly all patients with tuberculosis containing regimens using DOT, relapses occur with susceptible organisms. However, in patients who received self-administered therapy, drug resistance is substantial. In addition, if initial drug susceptibility testing was not performed and the patient fails or relapses who were resistant from the outset.

The selection of empirical treatment for patients with relapse should be based on the prior treatment scheme and severity of disease. If a patient were treated under DOT, initiation of the standard four-drug regimen is appropriate until the results of drug susceptibility tests are available. If three additional agents to which the organisms are likely to be susceptible should be included.

For patients with relapse who did not receive DOT, who were not treated with a rifamycin-based regimen, or who are known to be drug resistant and to begin an expanded regimen with INH, RIF, and PZA plus an additional two or three agents based on the probability of drug resistance (levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, or gatifloxacin), an injectable agent such as SM (if not used previously and susceptibility to SM drug).

Treatment failure is defined as continued or recurrently positive cultures during the course of antituberculosis therapy. After 90-95% of patients will have negative cultures and show clinical improvement. Thus, patients with positive cultures after 3 months are considered to have the delayed conversion. Patients whose sputum cultures remain positive after 4 months of treatment should be deemed treatment failure. Possible reasons for treatment failure in patients receiving appropriate regimens include nonadherence to the drug regimen (the most common), biological variation in response. If treatment failure occurs, early consultation with a specialty center is strongly advised. If a patient has treatment failure, a regimen could be started or administration of an altered regimen could be deferred until results of drug susceptibility testing are available. If a patient has a positive culture, an empirical regimen should be started immediately and continued until susceptibility tests are available. For patients with treatment failure, laboratory for drug susceptibility testing to both first- and second-line agents.

A fundamental principle in managing patients with treatment failure is never to add a single drug to a failing regimen; so do not add drugs to which susceptibility could logically be inferred should be added to lessen the probability of further acquired resistance. SM (if not used previously and the patient is not from an area of the world having high rates of SM resistance), amikacin, kanamycin, cycloserine, or ethionamide. Once drug-susceptibility test results are available, the regimen should be adjusted according to the results. Patients having tuberculosis caused by strains of *M. tuberculosis* resistant to at least INH and RIF (multidrug-resistant [MDR] tuberculosis) should be referred to or consultation obtained from specialized treatment centers as identified by the local or state health department. Patients with MDR strains, they are also at increased risk for treatment failure and additional resistance and should be managed accordingly. Definitive randomized or controlled studies have not been performed to establish optimum regimens for treating patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis on expert opinion, guided by a set of general principles specified in Section 9, Management of Relapse, Treatment Failure, and Drug Resistance, various patterns of drug-resistant tuberculosis (all are rated AIII).

The role of resectional surgery in the management of patients with extensive pulmonary MDR tuberculosis has not been established. It is performed by surgeons with experience in these situations and only after the patient has received several months of intensive chemotherapy to prevent relapse.

Treatment of Tuberculosis in Low-Income Countries: Recommendations of the WHO and Guidelines from the IUATLD

To place the current guidelines in an international context it is necessary to have an understanding of the approaches to treat tuberculosis. The American Thoracic Society/CDC/Infectious Diseases Society of America (ATS/CDC/IDSA) recommendations cannot be applied to all tuberculosis and the resources with which to confront the disease to an important extent determine the approaches used. Give the high incidence in low-income countries, it is also important for persons managing these cases to be familiar with the approaches used in the countries. The major international recommendations and guidelines for treating tuberculosis are those of the WHO and of the IUATLD. The IUATLD is a distillation of IUATLD practice, validated in the field.

The WHO and IUATLD documents target, in general, countries in which mycobacterial culture, drug susceptibility testing, and differences exist between these new ATS/CDC/IDSA recommendations, and the current tuberculosis treatment recommendations built around a national case management strategy called "DOTS," the acronym for "directly observed therapy, short course," components of DOTS are 1) government commitment to sustained tuberculosis control activities, 2) case detection by sputum standardized treatment regimen of 6--8 months for at least all confirmed sputum smear--positive cases, with DOT for at least 5) a standardized recording and reporting system that enables assessment of treatment results for each patient and of the tube. A number of other differences exist as well:

- The WHO and the IUATLD recommend diagnosis and classification of tuberculosis cases and assessment of response recommended because of cost, limited applicability, and lack of facilities.
- Chest radiography is recommended by both the WHO and IUATLD only for patients with negative sputum smears.
- Both 6- and 8-month treatment regimens are recommended by the WHO. The IUATLD recommends an 8-month regimen for suspected or known to have HIV infection, ethambutol is substituted for thioacetazone.
- The WHO and the IUATLD recommend a standardized 8-month regimen for patients who have relapsed, had previously considered "chronic" cases and are highly likely to have tuberculosis caused by MDR organisms. Susceptibility testing, the WHO, if testing and second-line drugs are available. The IUATLD recommendations do not address the issue.
- Neither baseline nor follow-up biochemical testing is recommended by the WHO and the IUATLD. It is recommended to be performed promptly.

A Research Agenda for Tuberculosis Treatment

New antituberculosis drugs are needed for three main reasons: 1) to shorten or otherwise simplify treatment of tuberculosis, 2) to provide more efficient and effective treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. No truly novel compounds that are likely to provide further work to optimize the effectiveness of once-a-week rifampentine regimens using higher doses of the drug and using rifapentine. New categories of drugs that have shown promise for use in treating tuberculosis include the nitroimidazopyrans and the oxazolidinones thought to be necessary for maintaining the latent state, might be useful for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection.

A number of other interventions that might lead to improved treatment outcome have been suggested, although none has been tested. Administration of "protective" cytokines such as interferon-gamma and interleukin-2, and nutritional supplements, especially vitamin D. Research is also needed to identify factors that are predictive of a greater or lesser risk of relapse to determine optimal length of supervised treatment. In addition, identification of behavioral factors that identify patients at greater or lesser likelihood of being nonadherent.

1. Introduction and Background

Since 1971 the American Thoracic Society (ATS) and CDC have regularly collaborated to develop joint guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis intended to guide both public health programs and health care providers in all aspects of the clinical and public health management of tuberculosis. The most recent version of guidelines for the treatment of tuberculosis was published in 1994 (2).

The current document differs from its predecessor in a number of important areas that are summarized above. The process by which the guidelines were developed is substantially different from the previous versions. For the first time the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) has become a participating organization in the development of the guidelines. The IDSA has previously been a cosponsor of the document. Practice guidelines that serve to complement the current guidelines are intended for areas in which mycobacterial cultures, drug susceptibility tests, radiographic facilities, and other resources are limited. For this revision of the recommendations essentially all clinical trials of antituberculosis treatment in the English language literature were reviewed. The IDSA/USPHS rating scale (4).

This revision of the recommendations for treatment of tuberculosis presents a significant philosophic departure from previous recommendations, primarily on the provider or program initiating therapy rather than on the patient. It is well established that appropriate treatment of tuberculosis reduces the risk of disability or death from tuberculosis, and nearly eliminates the possibility of relapse. For these reasons, antituberculosis treatment of, for example, hypertension or diabetes mellitus, wherein the benefits largely accrue to the patient. Provider responsibility for the care of the patient. All reasonable attempts should be made to accommodate the patient so that a successful outcome is achieved. For nonadherent patients.

The recommendations in this statement are not applicable under all epidemiologic circumstances or across all levels of resources. The recommendations of therapy described in this document apply regardless of conditions, the diagnostic approach, methods of patient supervision, and resources available. The recommendations recommended, are quite different in high-incidence, low-income areas compared with low-incidence, high-income areas of the world. The recommendations of the document and those of the IUATLD and the WHO is found in Section 10, Treatment of Tuberculosis in Low-Income Countries. In the United States there has been a call for the elimination of tuberculosis, and a committee constituted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) had two main recommendations related to treatment of tuberculosis; first, that all U.S. jurisdictions have health regulations that require that tuberculosis treatment be administered in the context of patient-centered programs that are based on individual patient characteristics and resources, and second, that treatment services, as well as the drugs that are used, to treat patients effectively. This philosophy is the core of the DOTS strategy. The recommendations of the WHO and the IUATLD, developed by the IUATLD and implemented globally by the WHO. Thus, in both high- and low-incidence countries, the fundamental concern, regardless of where treatment is given, is ensuring patient adherence.

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2. Organization and Supervision of Treatment

Successful treatment of tuberculosis depends on more than the science of chemotherapy. To have the highest likelihood of success for each individual patient's circumstances. Optimal organization of treatment programs requires an effective network of primary and secondary care facilities and community outreach programs, and between the private and public sectors of medical care. This section describes the likelihood of being successful.

As noted previously, antituberculosis chemotherapy is both a personal health measure intended to cure the sick patient and a public health measure. Typically, tuberculosis treatment is provided by public health departments, often working in collaboration with other providers, health centers, correctional facilities, hospitals, hospices, long-term care facilities, and homeless shelters. Private providers and public health departments setting that is not only mutually agreeable but also enables access to tuberculosis expertise and resources that might otherwise be unavailable. More structured public/private partnership, often defined by a contract, to assure completion of therapy. Regardless of the mechanism, the complete therapy rests with the public health system.

2.1. Role of the Health Department

The responsibility of the health department in the control of tuberculosis is to ensure that all persons who are suspected of having tuberculosis receive treatment is prescribed and completed successfully (1,2). A critical component of the evaluation scheme is access to proficient health care. The responsibilities of the health department may be accomplished indirectly by epidemiologic surveillance and monitoring, or more directly by provision of diagnostic and treatment services, as well as by conducting epidemiologic investigations. Given the various mechanisms by which health care is delivered, the means by which the goals of the health department are accomplished may vary. In dealing with individual patients, approaches that focus on each person's needs and characteristics should be used to determine the best plan. Plans are developed with the patient as an active participant together with the physician and/or nurse, outreach workers, social workers, and others. Many of tuberculosis in the United States were born outside the United States (similar circumstances prevail in most other low-incidence countries).

ensure his/her participation in developing the treatment plan. Ideally, a specific case manager is assigned individual responsibility and revised as needed. These reviews may be accomplished in meetings between the patient and the assigned provider, as we principle of using the least restrictive measures that are likely to achieve success. The full spectrum of measures that may be outpatient setting to legally mandated hospitalization (4). Directly observed therapy (DOT) is the preferred initial means to a stepwise fashion. Any approach must be balanced, ensuring that the needs and rights of the patient, as well as those of the public jointly by the health department and the private provider, and must address identified and anticipated barriers to adherence.

2.2. Promoting Adherence

Louis Pasteur once said, "The microbe is nothing...the terrain everything" (5). Assuming appropriate drugs are prescribed, the treatment) becomes the most important consideration in completion of tuberculosis treatment. Many factors may be part of the linguistic barriers to cooperation, lifestyle differences, homelessness, substance abuse, and a large number of other conditions tuberculosis (6). Barriers may be patient related, such as conflicting health beliefs, alcohol or drug dependence, or mental illness lack of interpreters (7). Effective tuberculosis case management identifies and characterizes the terrain and determines an appropriate centered approach are that, by increasing communication with the patient, it provides opportunities for further education and counseling. To maximize completion of therapy, patient-centered programs identify and utilize a broad range of approaches based on the initial strategy and deserves special emphasis. Although DOT itself has not been subjected to controlled trials in low-incidence settings strongly suggest that DOT, coupled with individualized case management, leads to the best treatment results (8--10). To date showed no benefit and one (13) in which there was a significant advantage for DOT. What is clear from these studies is that aggressive interventions when patients miss doses. Using DOT in this manner can only improve results.

DOT can be provided daily or intermittently in the office, clinic, or in the "field" (patient's home, place of employment, school personnel. DOT should be used for all patients residing in institutional settings such as hospitals, nursing homes, or correctional observation of therapy (14). However, even in such supervised settings careful attention must be paid to ensuring that ingested regimens that use intermittent drug administration have all doses administered under DOT because of the potentially serious drug reactions, and clinical worsening of tuberculosis. DOT provides a close connection to the health care system for a group and management of other conditions.

The use of DOT does not guarantee ingestion of all doses of every medication (15). Patients may miss appointments, may not attend patients, including those who are being treated by DOT, should continue to be monitored for signs of treatment failure. DOT incentives and enablers described subsequently (16--20). Patients who are more likely to present a transmission risk to others when resources are limited. When DOT is not being used, fixed-dose combination preparations (see Section 6.2, Fixed-Dose Combination) patient taking only one drug and may help prevent the development of drug resistance. Combination formulations are easier to take. Depending on the identified obstacles to completion of therapy, the treatment plan may also include enablers and incentives to encourage patient adherence. Utilizing DOT in addition to other adherence-promoting tools (9,21,22). These studies demonstrate, as shown in [Figure 3](#), that completion rates (in excess of 90% across a range of geographic and socioeconomic settings), and reinforces the importance of intensive educational efforts should be initiated as soon as the patient is suspected of having tuberculosis. The instruction sheet for tuberculosis, expected outcomes of treatment, the benefits and possible adverse effects of the drug regimen, methods of supervised medication regimen must be explained in clear, understandable language and the verbal explanation followed with written instructions in the same language. Materials should be appropriate for the culture, language, age, and reading level of the patient. Relevant information about the patient's clinical progress and the treatment plan must be reviewed at least monthly to evaluate the response to therapy and to adjust based, that quantifies the dosage and frequency of medication administered, indicates AFB smear and culture status, and notes any side effects. Regular reviews and also provides data for cohort analyses. In addition, adherence monitoring by direct methods, such as the pill counts or a medication monitor, should be a part of routine management, especially if the patient is not being given DOT.

Tracking patients is also a critical concern for those charged with assuring completion of treatment. It has been shown that patients who move are more likely to default than patients who do not move (24). Factors that have been shown to be associated with moving/defaulting include homelessness. Communication and coordination of services among different sources of care and different health departments are essential for patients with no permanent home. Such communication may also be necessary across national boundaries, especially the United States.

Some patients, for example those with tuberculosis caused by drug-resistant organisms, or who have comorbid conditions, such as HIV, hospitalized in a facility where tuberculosis expertise is available and where there are appropriate infection control measures in place, such measures have failed (25--27). Public health laws exist in most states that allow the use of detention under these circumstances in some states as a less costly alternative. The use of these interventions depends on the existence of appropriate facilities. Health departments must be consulted to initiate legal action when it is necessary.

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3. Drugs in Current Use

Currently, there are 10 drugs approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating tuberculosis (7). Five of these drugs are used relatively commonly to treat tuberculosis caused by drug-resistant organisms or for patients who are intolerant of so-called second-line drugs. Rifampin (RIF), which is used relatively commonly to treat tuberculosis caused by drug-resistant organisms, is useful for treating tuberculosis in patients with HIV infection but not approved for tuberculosis in patients with HIV infection. Of the approved drugs isoniazid (INH), rifampin (RIF), ethambutol (EMB), and pyrazinamide (PZA) are considered first-line drugs. Streptomycin (SM) may also be considered first-line agents under the specific situations described below. Streptomycin (SM) was formerly considered a first-line drug, but increasing prevalence of resistance to SM in many parts of the world has decreased its overall usefulness. The remaining drugs are second-line drugs. The drug preparations available currently and the recommended doses are shown in [Tables 3, 4, and 5](#).

3.1. First-Line Drugs

3.1.1. Isoniazid

Role in treatment regimen. Isoniazid (INH) is a first-line agent for treatment of all forms of tuberculosis caused by organisms that are sensitive to it. It is effective against rapidly dividing cells (1,2).

Dose. See [Table 3](#).

Adults (maximum): 5 mg/kg (300 mg) daily; 15 mg/kg (900 mg) once, twice, or three times weekly.

Children (maximum): 10–15 mg/kg (300 mg) daily; 20–30 mg/kg (900 mg) twice weekly (3).

Preparations. Tablets (50 mg, 100 mg, 300 mg); syrup (50 mg/5 ml); aqueous solution (100 mg/ml) for intravenous or intramuscular use.

Adverse effects.

Asymptomatic elevation of aminotransferases: Aminotransferase elevations up to five times the upper limit of normal occur in approximately 10% of patients. Enzyme levels usually return to normal even with continued administration of the drug.

Clinical hepatitis: (see [Table 10.](#)) Data indicate that the incidence of clinical hepatitis is lower than was previously thought. In a study of latent tuberculosis infection in an urban tuberculosis control program (5). Prior studies suggested a higher rate, and a meta-analysis (6--8). In the meta-analysis the rate of clinical hepatitis was 1.6% when INH was given with other agents, not including RIF. For INH alone the risk increases with increasing age; it is uncommon in persons less than 20 years of age but is nearly 2% in persons 20 years of age or older, in those with a history of heavy alcohol consumption, and, data suggest, in the postpartum period, particularly among women. *Fatal hepatitis:* A large survey estimated the rate of fatal hepatitis to be 0.023%, but more recent studies suggest the rate is still higher. Continued administration of INH despite onset of symptoms of hepatitis (12).

Peripheral neurotoxicity (13,14): This adverse effect is dose related and is uncommon (less than 0.2%) at conventional doses. Conditions such as neuropathy such as nutritional deficiency, diabetes, HIV infection, renal failure, and alcoholism, as well as for pregnant and nursing women, and these conditions to help prevent this neuropathy (18).

Central nervous system effects: Effects such as dysarthria, irritability, seizures, dysphoria, and inability to concentrate have been reported.

Lupus-like syndrome (19): Approximately 20% of patients receiving INH develop anti-nuclear antibodies. Less than 1% develop symptoms.

Hypersensitivity reactions: Reactions, such as fever, rash, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, hemolytic anemia, vasculitis, and neurotoxicity. *Monoamine (histamine/tyramine) poisoning:* This has been reported to occur after ingestion of foods and beverages with high concentrations of monoamines. Avoid foods and drinks, such as certain cheeses and wine, having high concentrations of monoamines.

Diarrhea: Use of the commercial liquid preparation of INH, because it contains sorbitol, is associated with diarrhea.

Use in pregnancy. INH is considered safe in pregnancy, but the risk of hepatitis may be increased in the peripartum period (18). It should be noted that multivitamin preparations have variable amounts of pyridoxine but generally less than 1 mg.

CNS penetration. Penetration is excellent. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) concentrations are similar to concentrations achieved in serum.

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) INH can be used safely without dose adjustment in patients who require chronic hemodialysis (26).

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) The risk of drug accumulation and drug-induced hepatitis may be increased in patients with hepatic disease. Laboratory and clinical monitoring should be more frequent in such situations.

Monitoring. Routine monitoring is not necessary. However, for patients who have preexisting liver disease or who develop symptoms of liver disease, serum concentrations should be measured monthly and when symptoms occur. Serum concentrations of phenytoin and carbamazepine may be increased. Serum concentrations of the anticonvulsants are limited by the decrease caused by RIF. Thus, it is important to measure serum concentrations if necessary.

3.1.2. Rifampin

Role in treatment regimen. Rifampin (RIF) is a first-line agent for treatment of all forms of tuberculosis caused by organisms that divide rapidly (early bactericidal activity) (1) and against semidormant bacterial populations, thus accounting for its sterilizing effect.

Dose. See [Table 3.](#)

Adults (maximum): 10 mg/kg (600 mg) once daily, twice weekly, or three times weekly.

Children (maximum): 10--20 mg/kg (600 mg) once daily or twice weekly.

Preparations. Capsules (150 mg, 300 mg); contents of capsule may also be mixed in an appropriate diluent to prepare an oral suspension. **Adverse effects (28).**

Cutaneous reactions (29): Pruritis with or without rash may occur in as many as 6% of patients but is generally self-limited (30). More severe, true hypersensitivity reactions are uncommon, occurring in 0.07--0.3% of patients (17,31,32).

Gastrointestinal reactions (nausea, anorexia, abdominal pain): The incidence is variable, but symptoms are rarely severe enough to require discontinuation of the drug.

Flulike syndrome: This may occur in 0.4--0.7% of patients receiving 600 mg twice weekly but not with daily administration of the drug at a higher dose (29,35).

Hepatotoxicity: Transient asymptomatic hyperbilirubinemia may occur in as many as 0.6% of patients receiving the drug. More severe hepatitis is more common when the drug is given in combination with INH (2.7%) than when given alone (nearly 0%) or in combination with INH and pyrazinamide.

Severe immunologic reactions: In addition to cutaneous reactions and flulike syndrome, other reactions thought to be immunologic include thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura. These reactions are rare, each occurring in less than 0.1% of patients (31,32,37).

Orange discoloration of bodily fluids (sputum, urine, sweat, tears): This is a universal effect of the drug. Patients should be warned that their urine, sweat, and tears may be permanently stained.

Drug interactions due to induction of hepatic microsomal enzymes: There are a number of drug interactions (described in Section 8.7) of concern are reductions, often to ineffective levels, in serum concentrations of common drugs, such as oral contraceptives, meperidine, rifamycins and antiretroviral agents. Because information regarding rifamycin drug interactions is evolving rapidly, readers should consult the most current information.

Use in pregnancy. RIF is considered safe in pregnancy (38).

CNS penetration. Concentrations in the CSF may be only 10--20% of serum levels, but this is sufficient for clinical efficacy.

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) RIF can be used safely without dose adjustment in patients who require chronic hemodialysis.

Use in hepatic disease. (see Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) Clearance of the drug may be impaired in the presence of liver disease. In patients receiving rifampin in all short-course regimens, it generally should be included, but the frequency of clinical and laboratory monitoring should be increased.

Monitoring. No routine monitoring tests are required. However, rifampin causes many drug interactions described in Section 7: Drug Interactions. Consult the drugs in question.

3.1.3. Rifabutin

Role in treatment regimen. Rifabutin is used as a substitute for RIF in the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis caused by *M. tuberculosis* complex. It is reserved for patients who are receiving any medication having unacceptable interactions with rifampin (41) or have experienced severe adverse effects.

Dose. See Table 3.

Adults (maximum): 5 mg/kg (300 mg) daily, twice, or three times weekly. The dose may need to be adjusted when there is concurrent use of rifabutin with efavirenz the dose of rifabutin should be increased to 450--600 mg either daily or intermittently. Because of the risk of severe thrombocytopenia, consult the CDC web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/tb/>, to obtain the most up-to-date information.

Children (maximum): Appropriate dosing for children is unknown.

Preparations: Capsules (150 mg) for oral administration.

Adverse effects.

Hematologic toxicity: In a placebo-controlled, double-blind trial involving patients with advanced acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) with 20% in patients receiving placebo ($p = 0.03$). Neutropenia severe enough to necessitate discontinuation of the drug occurred in 10% of patients. The effect is dose related, occurring more frequently with daily than with intermittent administration of the same dose (42). Thrombocytopenia was associated with rifabutin (43--47).

Uveitis: This is a rare (less than 0.01%) complication when the drug is given alone at a standard (300 mg daily) dose. The occurrence is increased when rifabutin is used with macrolide antimicrobial agents that reduce its clearance (48). Uveitis may also occur with other drugs that reduce clearance of rifabutin.

Gastrointestinal symptoms: These symptoms occurred in 3% of patients with advanced HIV infection given 300 mg/day (package insert). Symptoms noted among patients taking rifabutin (43,44,46--48).

Polyarthralgias: This symptom occurred in 1--2% of persons receiving a standard 300-mg dose (package insert). It is more common in patients involving both HIV-infected and uninfected patients (43,44,46,47).

Hepatotoxicity: Asymptomatic elevation of liver enzymes has been reported at a frequency similar to that of RIF (48). Clinical *Pseudojaundice (skin discoloration with normal bilirubin):* This is usually self-limited and resolves with discontinuation of the drug.

Rash: Although initially reported to occur in as many as 4% of patients with advanced HIV infection, subsequent studies suggest that the incidence is much lower.

Flulike syndrome: Flulike syndrome is rare (less than 0.1%) in patients taking rifabutin.

Orange discoloration of bodily fluids (sputum, urine, sweat, tears): This is a universal effect of the drug. Patients should be advised that their clothing may become permanently stained.

Use in pregnancy. There are insufficient data to recommend the use of rifabutin in pregnant women; thus, the drug should be used with caution.

CNS penetration. The drug penetrates inflamed meninges (50).

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) Rifabutin may be used without dose adjustment in patients with renal insufficiency.

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) The drug should be used with increased clinical and laboratory monitoring in patients with severe liver dysfunction (50).

Monitoring. Monitoring is similar to that recommended for rifampin. Although drug interactions are less problematic with rifabutin than with rifampin, the same precautions apply.

3.1.4. Rifapentine

Role in treatment regimen. Rifapentine may be used once weekly with INH in the continuation phase of treatment for HIV negative sputum smears at completion of the initial phase of treatment (51).

Dose. See Table 3.

Adults (maximum): 10 mg/kg (600 mg), once weekly during the continuation phase of treatment. Data have suggested that a 1200-mg dose may be more effective (52).

Children: The drug is not approved for use in children.

Preparation. Tablet (150 mg, film coated).

Adverse effects.

The adverse effects of rifapentine are similar to those associated with RIF. Rifapentine is an inducer of multiple hepatic enzymes (see Section 7: Drug Interactions).

Use in pregnancy. There is not sufficient information to recommend the use of rifapentine for pregnant women.

CNS penetration. There are no data on CSF concentrations of rifapentine.

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) The pharmacokinetics of rifapentine administered dose is excreted via the kidneys, the clinical significance of impaired renal function in the disposition of rifapentine is not known.

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) The pharmacokinetics of rifapentine and its 25-desacetyl metabolite from those in healthy volunteers, even though the elimination of these compounds is primarily via the liver (53). The clinical metabolite is not known.

Monitoring. Monitoring is similar to that for RIF. Drug interactions involving rifapentine are being investigated and are likely to be similar to those with rifampin.

3.1.5. Pyrazinamide

Role in treatment regimen. Pyrazinamide (PZA) is a first-line agent for the treatment of all forms of tuberculosis caused by *M. tuberculosis* complex.

greatest activity against the population of dormant or semidormant organisms contained within macrophages or the acidic environment. **Dose.** See [Tables 3](#) and [4](#).

Adults: 20--25 mg/kg per day. Recommended adult dosages by weight, using whole tablets, are listed in [Table 4](#).

Children (maximum): 15--30 mg/kg (2.0 g) daily; 50 mg/kg twice weekly (2.0 g).

Preparations. Tablets (500 mg, scored).

Adverse effects.

Hepatotoxicity: Early studies (55,56) using doses of 40--70 mg/kg per day reported high rates of hepatotoxicity. However, in 25 mg/kg per day or less (15,34,57). In one study, however, hepatotoxicity attributable to PZA used in standard doses occurred.

Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting): Mild anorexia and nausea are common at standard doses. Vomiting and severe *Nongouty polyarthralgia:* Polyarthralgias may occur in up to 40% of patients receiving daily doses of PZA. This rarely requires other nonsteroidal antiinflammatory agents. In clinical trials of PZA in the initial intensive phase of treatment, arthralgias were

Asymptomatic hyperuricemia: This is an expected effect of the drug and is generally without adverse consequence (15,62).

Acute gouty arthritis: Acute gout is rare except in patients with preexisting gout (63), generally a contraindication to the use

Transient morbilliform rash: This is usually self-limited and is not an indication for discontinuation of the drug.

Dermatitis: PZA may cause photosensitive dermatitis (59).

Use in pregnancy. There is little information about the safety of PZA in pregnancy. However, when there are sound reasons (unquantified) risk. The WHO and the IUATLD recommend this drug for use in pregnant women with tuberculosis (see Section 8.2: The IUATLD).

CNS penetration. The drug passes freely into the CSF, achieving concentrations equivalent to those in serum (64).

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) PZA is cleared primarily by the liver (65). The dose may, therefore, need to be reduced in patients with renal insufficiency. It should be administered in patients with renal disease ([Table 15](#)) (26). The risk of hyperuricemia caused by PZA is increased in patients with renal insufficiency.

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) Although the frequency is slightly lower than with INH or RIF, it is increased in patients with underlying liver disease, laboratory and clinical monitoring should be increased.

Monitoring. Serum uric acid measurements are not recommended as a routine but may serve as a surrogate marker for complications in patients with underlying liver disease or when it is used with rifampin in treating latent tuberculosis infection.

3.1.6. Ethambutol

Role in treatment regimen. Ethambutol (EMB) is a first-line drug for treating all forms of tuberculosis. It is included in initial treatment regimens. Ethambutol may be present. Ethambutol is generally not recommended for routine use in children whose visual acuity cannot be tested. If resistance to either INH or RIF, EMB should be used (see Section 8.2: Children and Adolescents).

Dose. See [Tables 3](#) and [5](#).

Adults: 15--20 mg/kg per day; [Table 5](#) lists recommended dosages for adults, using whole tablets.

Children (maximum): 15--20 mg/kg per day (2.5 g); 50 mg/kg twice weekly (2.5 g). The drug can be used safely in older children (generally less than 5 years of age) (66). In younger children EMB can be used if there is concern with resistance to INH or RIF.

Preparations. Tablets (100 mg, 400 mg) for oral administration.

Adverse effects.

Retinopathy: This is manifested as decreased visual acuity or decreased red-green color discrimination that may affect the macula. No difference was found in the prevalence of decreased visual acuity between regimens that contained EMB at 15 mg/kg and 30 mg/kg (18% of patients receiving more than 30 mg/kg per day) and in patients with renal insufficiency. Higher doses can be given safely.

Peripheral neuritis: This is a rare adverse effect (69).

Cutaneous reactions: Skin reactions requiring discontinuation of the drug occur in 0.2--0.7% of patients (68).

Use in pregnancy. EMB is considered safe for use in pregnancy (70--72).

CNS penetration. The agent penetrates the meninges in the presence of inflammation but does not have demonstrated efficacy in the absence of inflammation.

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) EMB is cleared primarily by the liver (74). EMB should be administered at a dose of 15--20 mg/kg three times a week by DOT after dialysis in patients with renal disease.

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) EMB can be used safely in patients with hepatic disease.

Monitoring. Patients should have baseline visual acuity testing (Snellen chart) and testing of color discrimination (Ishihara chart) including blurred vision or scotomata. Monthly testing of visual acuity and color discrimination is recommended for patients with renal insufficiency. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician or public health clinic immediately if there are any signs of visual toxicity.

3.1.7. Fixed-dose combination preparations

Role in treatment regimen. Two combined preparations, INH and RIF (Rifamate®) and INH, RIF, and PZA (Rifater®), are used in treatment regimens, particularly when DOT is not possible, and, therefore, may decrease the risk of acquired drug resistance (75). The constituent drugs are combined in proportions compatible with daily treatment regimens. Formulations for intermittent administration are also available.

Preparations and dose.

Rifamate®: As sold in North America, each capsule contains RIF (300 mg) and INH (150 mg); thus, the daily dose is two capsules. Rifamate® and INH are used by some programs for intermittent therapy given twice weekly as DOT.

Rifater®: Each tablet contains RIF (120 mg), INH (50 mg), and PZA (300 mg). The daily dose is based on weight as follows: 10–15 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day) for persons weighing less than 90 kg; 15–20 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day) for persons weighing more than 90 kg. Additional PZA tablets must be given.

Adverse effects. See comments under individual drugs above.

Use in pregnancy. Rifamate® may be used in daily treatment of pregnant women. Rifater® should not be used because it crosses the placenta. **CNS penetration.** See comments under individual drugs above.

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) Rifamate® may be used in persons with renal disease without adjustment of the dose of PZA.

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) In patients with underlying hepatic disease it is advisable to treat with the regimen established.

3.2. Second-Line Drugs

3.2.1. Cycloserine

Role in treatment regimen. Cycloserine (76,77) is a second-line drug that is used for treating patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis. It may be used on a temporary basis for patients with acute hepatitis in combination with other nonhepatotoxic drugs.

Dose. See [Table 3](#).

Adults (maximum): 10–15 mg/kg per day (1,000 mg), usually 500–750 mg/day given in two doses. Clinicians with experience in therapeutic drug monitoring and concentration measurements aiming for a peak concentration of 20–35 mg/ml are often useful in determining the optimum dose.

Children (maximum): 10–15 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day).

Preparations. Capsules (250 mg).

Adverse effects.

Central nervous system effects: The central nervous system effects range from mild reactions, such as headache or restlessness, to severe effects such as seizures, neurotoxicity, or mental illness. Seizures have been reported to occur in up to 16% of patients receiving 500 mg twice daily. Neurotoxic side effects and are usually given in a dosage of 100–200 mg/day (79). Rarely, cycloserine may cause peripheral neuropathy.

Use in pregnancy. Cycloserine crosses the placenta. There are limited data on safety in pregnancy; thus, it should be used with caution. **CNS penetration.** Concentrations in CSF approach those in serum (77).

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) The drug can accumulate in patients with renal disease. The dose should be reduced and serum concentrations measured. Cycloserine should not be used in patients having a creatinine clearance less than 10 mL/min. In patients hemodialyzed the dose should be 500 mg three times a week or 250 mg daily ([Table 15](#)). Serum concentrations of the drug should be measured.

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) There are no precautions except for patients with alcohol-related liver disease. **Monitoring.** Neuropsychiatric status should be assessed at least at monthly intervals and more frequently if symptoms develop. The dose is established. For patients taking phenytoin, serum concentrations of phenytoin should be measured.

3.2.2. Ethionamide

Role in treatment. Ethionamide (76,77) is a second-line drug that is used for patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis disease.

Dose: See [Table 3](#).

Adults (maximum): 15–20 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day), usually 500–750 mg/day in a single daily dose or two divided doses. Intermittent dosing may be used.

Children (maximum): 15–20 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day).

Preparations: Tablets (250 mg).

Adverse reactions.

Gastrointestinal effects: Ethionamide commonly causes profound gastrointestinal side effects, including a metallic taste, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms may improve if doses are taken with food or at bedtime.

Hepatotoxicity: Ethionamide is similar in structure to INH and may cause similar side effects. Hepatotoxicity occurs in about 10% of patients. *Neurotoxicity:* Neurotoxicity, including peripheral neuritis, optic neuritis, anxiety, depression, and psychosis, has been reported with prolonged treatment (83,84).

Endocrine effects: Endocrine disturbances, including gynecomastia, alopecia, hypothyroidism, and impotence, have been described. **Use in pregnancy.** Ethionamide crosses the placenta and is teratogenic in laboratory animals. It should not be used in pregnant women.

CNS penetration. CSF concentrations are equal to those in serum (77).

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-stage Renal Disease.) For patients having a creatinine clearance less than 10 mL/min the dose should be reduced to 250–500 mg/day ([Table 15](#)).

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) Ethionamide should be used with caution in patients with underlying liver disease. **Monitoring.** Liver function tests should be obtained at baseline and, if there is underlying liver disease, at monthly intervals.

measured at baseline and at monthly intervals.

3.2.3. Streptomycin

Role in treatment regimen. Streptomycin (SM) (76,77,87--89) and EMB have been shown to be approximately equivalent to

likely to have acquired *M. tuberculosis* in a high-incidence country, the relatively high rate of resistance to SM limits its use. **Dose.** See [Table 3](#).

Adults (maximum): 15 mg/kg per day (1 g/day) parenterally, usually given as a single daily dose (5--7 days/week) initially, a conversion, depending on the efficacy of the other drugs in the regimen (90). For persons over 59 years of age, the dose should be reduced (i.e., 12--15 mg/kg per dose, two or three times per week) in persons with renal insufficiency (see below: Use in Renal Disease) (91,92).
Children (maximum): 20--40 mg/kg per day (1 g/day).

Preparations. Aqueous solution in vials of 1 g (93).

Adverse effects.

Ototoxicity: The most important adverse reaction caused by SM is ototoxicity, including vestibular and hearing disturbances (due to the accumulation of ethacrynic acid). The risk of ototoxicity increases with increasing single doses and with the cumulative dose, especially above 15 mg/kg per day.

Neurotoxicity: SM relatively commonly causes circumoral parasthesias immediately after injection. Rarely, it may interact with other neurotoxic drugs.

Nephrotoxicity: Nephrotoxicity occurs less commonly with SM than with amikacin, kanamycin, or capreomycin (95). Renal impairment is more likely to occur in patients with preexisting renal disease.

Use in pregnancy. SM is contraindicated in pregnancy because of the risk of fetal hearing loss (77,97,98).

CNS penetration. There is only slight diffusion of SM into CSF, even in patients with meningitis (77,99).

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) SM should be used with caution in patients with renal insufficiency because of its nephrotoxicity. Because clearance is almost exclusively by the kidney, dosing adjustments are essential in patients with underlying renal disease. In such patients, the dosing frequency should be reduced to two or three times weekly, but the milligram dose should be maintained (Table 15) (91,92). Smaller doses may reduce the efficacy of this drug. The drug should be given after dialysis to facilitate drug removal and should be monitored to avoid toxicity (91).

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) No precautions are necessary.

Monitoring. An audiogram, vestibular testing, Romberg testing, and serum creatinine measurement should be performed at baseline and periodically. If symptoms of ototoxicity or nephrotoxicity develop, monitoring should be performed monthly. An audiogram and vestibular testing should be repeated if there are symptoms of ototoxicity.

3.2.4. Amikacin and kanamycin

Role in treatment regimen. Amikacin and kanamycin (76,77,101) are two closely related injectable second-line drugs that are used for patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis caused by susceptible organisms. There is nearly always complete cross-resistance between the two drugs, but most SM-resistant strains are susceptible to amikacin. In such infections, amikacin may be more easily obtained, and serum drug concentration measurements are readily available.

Dose. See [Table 3](#).

Adults (maximum): 15 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day), intramuscular or intravenous, usually given as a single daily dose (5--7 days/week) after culture conversion, depending on the efficacy of the other drugs in the regimen (90). For persons greater than 59 years of age, the dose should be reduced (i.e., 12--15 mg/kg per dose, two or three times per week) in persons with renal insufficiency (see below: Use in Renal Disease) (91,92).
Children (maximum): 15--30 mg/kg per day (1 g/day) intramuscular or intravenous as a single daily dose.

Preparations. Aqueous solution for intramuscular or intravenous injection in vials of 500 mg and 1 g.

Adverse effects.

Ototoxicity: Amikacin and kanamycin may cause deafness, but they cause less vestibular dysfunction than SM (103,104). Ototoxicity is more likely to occur in patients with preexisting hearing loss. Deafness occurred in 24% of patients receiving amikacin, with higher rates occurring among those receiving longer treatment and higher doses.

Nephrotoxicity: Amikacin and kanamycin may be more nephrotoxic than SM (95). Renal impairment was seen in 8.7% of patients receiving amikacin. In such patients, the dosing frequency should be reduced to two or three times per week, but the dose should be maintained (Table 15) (91,92). Smaller doses may reduce the efficacy of this drug. The drug should be given after dialysis to facilitate drug removal and should be monitored to avoid toxicity (91).

Use in pregnancy. Both amikacin and kanamycin are contraindicated in pregnant women because of risk of fetal nephrotoxicity.

CNS penetration. Only low concentrations of the drugs are found in CSF, although slightly higher concentrations have been reported in patients with meningitis.

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) Amikacin and kanamycin should be used with caution in patients with renal insufficiency because of their nephrotoxicity. Because clearance is almost exclusively by the kidney, dosing adjustments are essential in patients with underlying renal disease. In such patients, the dosing frequency should be reduced to two or three times per week, but the dose should be maintained (Table 15) (91,92). Smaller doses may reduce the efficacy of this drug. The drug should be given after dialysis to facilitate drug removal and should be monitored to avoid toxicity (91).

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) No precautions are necessary.

Monitoring. Monitoring should be performed as described for SM. An advantage of amikacin is that serum concentration measurements are readily available. Patients with preexisting renal disease or predisposition to hepato-renal syndrome, may be at greater risk for nephrotoxicity from amikacin/kanamycin and should have their renal function monitored.

3.2.5. Capreomycin

Role in treatment. Capreomycin is a second-line injectable drug that is used for patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis caused by susceptible organisms.

Dose. See [Table 3](#).

Adults (maximum): 15 mg/kg per day (1.0 g/day), usually given as a single daily dose five to seven times a week, and reduced to three times per week in persons with renal insufficiency (see below: Use In Renal Disease) (91,92).
Children (maximum): 15--30 mg/kg per day (1 g/day) as a single daily or twice weekly dose.

Preparations. Capreomycin is available in vials of 1 g for both intramuscular and intravenous administration.

Adverse effects.

Nephrotoxicity: Nephrotoxic effects may result in reduced creatinine clearance or potassium and magnesium depletion. Prote reported to occur in 20--25% of patients (110,111).

Ototoxicity: Vestibular disturbances, tinnitus, and deafness appear to occur more often in elderly persons or those with preex

Use in pregnancy. Capreomycin should be avoided in pregnancy because of risk of fetal nephrotoxicity and congenital hear

CNS penetration. Capreomycin does not penetrate into the CSF (77).

Use in renal disease. (see Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) Capreomycin should be used with ototoxicity and nephrotoxicity (112). Because capreomycin is nearly entirely cleared by the kidneys, dosing adjustments are patients undergoing hemodialysis. In such patients, the dosing frequency should be reduced to two or three times weekly, bu concentration-dependent bactericidal effect (Table 15) (91,92). Smaller doses may reduce the efficacy of this drug. The drug (100,113). Serum drug concentrations should be monitored to avoid toxicity (91).

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) No precautions are necessary.

Monitoring. Monitoring should be performed as described for SM. In addition, serum potassium and magnesium concentrat

3.2.6. p-Aminosalicylic acid

Role in treatment. p-Aminosalicylic acid (PAS) is an oral agent used in treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis caused by o

Dose. See Table 3.

Adults: 8--12 g/day in two or three doses. For PAS granules, 4 g three times daily has been the usual dosage (114,115). How serum concentration (116).

Children: 200--300 mg/kg per day in two to four divided doses (117).

Preparations. The only available formulation in the United States is granules in 4-g packets (Paser Granules®) (118). It was recent data suggest that this is not necessary (C. Peloquin, personal communication). Tablets (500 mg) are still available in s

Adverse effects.

Hepatotoxicity: In a review of 7,492 patients being treated for tuberculosis, 38 (0.5%) developed hepatitis, of which 28 cases

Gastrointestinal distress: This is the most common side effect of PAS (122). In a large study of INH and PAS 11% of patien gastrointestinal side effects is less with lower doses (8 g daily) and with the granular formulation of the drug.

Malabsorption syndrome: This is characterized by steatorrhea and low serum folate levels (123).

Hypothyroidism: This is a common side effect, especially with prolonged administration or concomitant use of ethionamide. Thyroid function returns to normal after discontinuation of the drug (124).

Coagulopathy: A doubling of the prothrombin time that seemed to be lessened by coadministration of streptomycin has been

Use in pregnancy. No studies have been done in humans; however, PAS has been used safely in pregnancy. The drug should resistant tuberculosis.

CNS penetration. In the presence of inflamed meninges, PAS concentrations are between 10--50% of those achieved in ser

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End-Stage Renal Disease.) Approximately 80% of the drug i insufficiency because of the accumulation of the acetylated form (123,126,127). Because both PAS and acetyl-PAS are remc removal of the drug (126).

Use in hepatic disease. (See Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) The clearance of PAS is not substantially altered in liver disease monitoring (127).

Monitoring. Hepatic enzymes and thyroid function should be measured at baseline. With prolonged therapy (i.e., more than

3.2.7. Fluoroquinolones

Role in treatment regimen. Of the fluoroquinolones (128--131), levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, and gatifloxacin have the mos profile with long-term use of levofloxacin, this drug is the preferred oral agent for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis caused cannot be used because of intolerance. Data on long-term safety and tolerability of moxifloxacin and gatifloxacin, especially ciprofloxacin, ofloxacin, and levofloxacin and presumably is a class effect (132). Fluoroquinolones should not be considered intolerant of first-line drugs.

Dose. (See Table 3.) The doses given are for levofloxacin.

Adults: 500--1,000 mg daily.

Children: The long-term (more than several weeks) use of fluoroquinolones in children and adolescents has not been approv that the drug should be considered for children with MDR tuberculosis. The optimal dose is not known.

Preparations (Levofloxacin). Tablets (250 mg, 500 mg, 750 mg); aqueous solution (500 mg) for intravenous administration

Adverse effects. The adverse effects (133) cited are for levofloxacin.

Gastrointestinal disturbance: Nausea and bloating occur in 0.5--1.8% of patients taking the drug.

Neurologic effects: Dizziness, insomnia, tremulousness, and headache occur in 0.5% of patients.

Cutaneous reactions: Rash, pruritis, and photosensitivity occur in 0.2--0.4% of patients.

Use in pregnancy. This class of drugs should be avoided in pregnancy because of teratogenic effects (119,134).

CNS penetration. The concentration in CSF after administration of a standard dose of levofloxacin is 16--20% of that in ser

Interference with absorption. Because antacids and other medications containing divalent cations markedly decrease absorption hours of such medications (see Section 7.1: Interactions Affecting Antituberculosis Drugs).

Use in renal disease. (See Section 8.7: Renal Insufficiency and End Stage Renal Disease.) The drug is cleared primarily (80% if creatinine clearance is less than 50 ml/minute ([Table 15](#)) (136). It is not cleared by hemodialysis; supplemental doses after

Use in hepatic disease. Drug levels are not affected by hepatic disease (135). It is presumed to be safe for use in the setting of

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4. Principles of Antituberculosis Chemotherapy

4.1. Combination Chemotherapy

The primary goals of antituberculosis chemotherapy are to kill tubercle bacilli rapidly, prevent the emergence of drug resistance, and shorten the duration of therapy. To achieve these goals, multiple antituberculosis drugs must be taken for a sufficiently long time. The theoretical model of chemotherapy is based on the growth cycle of the bacilli in the host and on the specific activities of antituberculosis drugs. This model is supported by data from numerous *in vivo* and *in vitro* studies. It is theorized that there are three separate subpopulations of *M. tuberculosis* within the host. One subpopulation consists of rapidly growing extracellular bacilli that reside mainly in cavities. This subpopulation, because of its high metabolic activity, is the most susceptible to chemotherapy. The frequency of mutations that confer resistance is about 10^{-6} for INH and SM, 10^{-8} for RIF, and 10^{-5} for EMB; thus, the simultaneous resistance to both drugs in an untreated patient is a highly unlikely event (2).

INH has been shown to possess the most potent ability to kill rapidly multiplying *M. tuberculosis* during the initial part of therapy. In this regard, EMB, RIF, and SM are less effective. PZA has weak early bactericidal activity during the first 2 weeks of treatment (3,6). The bacillary population is the most susceptible to chemotherapy.

Early experience in clinical trials demonstrated that multiple agents are necessary to prevent the emergence of drug resistance. Shortly after the discovery of SM, it was demonstrated that treatment with this agent alone resulted in treatment failure and diminished the likelihood of acquired resistance and treatment failure (8). In modern regimens both INH and RIF have considered essential. SM is also effective in preventing the emergence of drug resistance, whereas the activity of PZA in this regard is poor (9,10).

The rapidly dividing population of bacilli is eliminated early in effective therapy as shown by the early clinical responses and

subpopulations of *M. tuberculosis* account for treatment failures and relapses, especially when the duration of therapy is in an acidic environment provided by areas of necrosis, and a group that is characterized by having spurts of growth interspersed with periods of dormancy. The most common subpopulations that persist beyond the early months of therapy, thus decreasing the risk of relapse (1). The RIF and PZA have the greatest sterilizing activity followed by INH and SM (11,12). The sterilizing activity of RIF persists throughout the course of therapy. In combination regimens, PZA provides additive sterilizing activity only during the initial 2 months of therapy. The sterilizing activity of INH and RIF in combination regimens for MDR tuberculosis may include PZA for the full course of treatment if the isolate is susceptible to this agent.

4.2. Optimum Duration of Treatment

Truly effective chemotherapy for tuberculosis became available with the introduction of INH in the early 1950s. Adding INH to the standard 18-month regimen (13). Eventually, EMB replaced PAS as the companion agent for INH (14). Subsequent investigations of combination regimens have shown that short-course therapy can be given intermittently.

The British Medical Research Council (BMRC) in East Africa (15) conducted the first large-scale multicenter study of short-course therapy. The regimen of daily SM and INH increased the proportion of patients whose sputum cultures were negative by 2 months after therapy. The short-course regimen was no greater than that of the standard 18-month regimen containing SM, INH, and thiacetazone. A 6-month regimen of SM, INH, and PZA daily, twice weekly, or three times weekly was associated with a relapse rate of only 5% compared with 15% for the standard 18-month regimen. Supervised therapy and SM had to be used for the entire 9 months. Subsequent investigations conducted by the British Thoracic Society (16) have shown that short-course therapy can achieve excellent results with a 9-month treatment duration, using INH and RIF throughout (17,18). The BMRC conducted a study of short-course therapy, thereby demonstrating that an all-oral regimen was effective (19).

The addition of PZA to a regimen containing INH and RIF enabled further shortening of the duration of therapy to 6 months. A 6-month regimen supplemented during the first 2 months with PZA and either EMB or SM, was as effective as a 9-month regimen of INH and RIF. An all-oral regimen containing INH, RIF, and PZA had no additional benefit. The efficacy of the treatment regimens was similar regardless of whether the regimen was supervised or self-administered. Subsequent studies of 6-month regimens have served to refine the approach used currently. USPHS Trial 21 compared self-administered 6-month regimens with 9-month regimens (21). EMB was added only if INH resistance was suspected. Patients taking the 6-month PZA-containing regimen had relapse rates similar to those of the 9-month regimen (3.5 versus 2.8%).

Investigators in Denver reported a low relapse rate (1.6%) when using a 62-dose, directly observed, 6-month regimen that consisted of 24 doses of INH and RIF given twice weekly, and 18 weeks of twice weekly INH and RIF (22).

Regimens less than 6 months in duration have been shown to have unacceptably high relapse rates among patients with smear-positive tuberculosis. In patients with smear-negative, culture-positive tuberculosis, the relapse rate was about 2% when using a 4-month regimen of daily SM and INH, compared with 1% when using a 6-month regimen. In Arkansas, patients with tuberculosis who had negative smears and cultures were treated with INH and RIF given twice weekly for 4 months. About 2.4% of patients developed active tuberculosis during 3.5 years of follow-up. Thus, it appears that a 4-month, INH- and RIF-containing regimen is not as effective as a 6-month regimen (23). (Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Adults).

4.3. Intermittent Drug Administration

Nonadherence to the antituberculosis treatment regimen is well known to be the most common cause of treatment failure, relapse, and death. Intermittent therapy, as opposed to daily dosing, facilitates supervision of therapy, thereby improving the outcome. The concept of intermittent drug administration was first proposed by subsequent laboratory investigations. First, it was noted that a single daily dose of 400 mg of INH was more effective than a 200-mg dose given twice daily. Subsequent investigators demonstrated that fully supervised twice weekly therapy could be delivered to nonhospitalized patients and that the results of this therapy were similar to those of daily therapy. These findings, plus the laboratory results noted below, led to a series of clinical trials that compared daily and intermittent dosing of INH and RIF. Intermittent therapy has been shown to be as effective as daily regimens and no more toxic (20).

In the laboratory it was noted that in vitro exposure of tubercle bacilli to drugs was followed by a lag period of several days before growth resumed. Thus, maintaining continuous inhibitory drug concentrations was not necessary to kill or inhibit growth of *M. tuberculosis*. Studies have shown that intermittent therapy is as effective as daily therapy; however, there was a significant decrease in activity with an 8-day dosing interval (30,31).

The concept of intermittent drug administration continues to evolve. Studies have demonstrated that the frequency of drug administration can be reduced. Intermittent therapy with INH and rifapentine for certain highly selected patients (32--34). Because of the newness of these findings the data are preliminary. The results from three open-label, randomized clinical trials indicate that rifapentine given with INH once a week is safe and effective for the treatment of tuberculosis. In a study performed in Hong Kong, patients with pulmonary tuberculosis were allocated at random to receive either a standard 2-month initial phase followed by 3 weeks for 4 months after completion of a standard 2-month initial phase (32). Overall, about 11% of patients in the two rifapentine arms relapsed compared with 15% of patients who received three times weekly INH--RIF (control arm) in the continuation phase of treatment. Omitting every third dose of INH and RIF in the continuation phase of treatment may have a negligible effect. Multivariate analyses showed that the significant prognostic factors were treatment arm, duration of follow-up, and culture positivity at the end of the initial phase. The frequency of failures and relapses was also greater in all three arms if the 2-month culture was positive.

The pivotal study for drug registration was conducted in North America and South Africa among HIV-negative patients with pulmonary tuberculosis. The study compared a standard four-drug initial phase, followed by twice weekly INH--RIF. Relapse rates during 2 years of follow-up were similar in the two arms (15% versus 16% in the control arm), and cavitary disease, sputum culture positivity at the end of the initial phase, and nonadherence with INH, EMB, and RIF were similar in the two arms.

The third study was conducted by the CDC Tuberculosis Trials Consortium, and employed a design similar to the Hong Kong study. The study compared a standard 2-month initial phase therapy (34). Again, results, as measured by rates of failure/relapse, were remarkably similar in the two arms.

with 5.6% in the control (INH--RIF twice weekly) arm. However, as in the South Africa study, relapse was significantly associated with positivity at 2 months, both of which were more common in the rifapentine arm. With adjustment for these factors, the difference in relapse rates between the two arms was low in both treatment arms. However, the relapse rate in the rifapentine arm was 22% and in the twice weekly INH--RIF arm was 21% (Table 11). In all of the cited studies, rifapentine was compared with the twice weekly INH--RIF arm. A small number of HIV--positive patients were enrolled in the CDC study, but this arm was closed after the development of

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5. Recommended Treatment Regimens

5.1. Evidence-based Rating System

To assist in making informed treatment decisions based on the most credible research results, evidence-based ratings have been used in the recommendations for treating latent tuberculosis infection, in which a letter indicating the strength of the recommendation, are assigned to each regimen (1). Thus, clinicians can use the ratings to differentiate among recommendations relevant to clinical practice and scientific rationale for such practice when clinical trial data are not available.

5.2. Recommended Regimens

There are four basic regimens recommended for treating adults with tuberculosis caused by organisms that are known or presumed to be drug-resistant. Depending on the circumstances, patients may not receive EMB in the initial phase of a 6-month regimen, but the regimens are otherwise similar. Options for the continuation phase of either 4 or 7 months. In [Table 2](#) the initial phase is denoted by a number (1, 2, 3, or 4) and a designation (a, b, or c). DOT is the preferred initial management strategy for all regimens and should be used whenever feasible.

5.2.1. Six-month regimens

The current minimal acceptable duration of treatment for all children and adults with culture-positive tuberculosis is 6 months. The regimen consists of a 2-month initial phase of INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB given daily throughout (Regimen 1), followed by two times weekly (TW) therapy of INH, RIF, and PZA as specified in [Table 2](#). On the basis of substantial clinical experience, 5 day-a-week drug administration by DOT is considered acceptable. Although administration of antituberculosis drugs by DOT at 5 days/week, rather than 7 days, has been reported in a large number of studies, it is therefore rated AIII.

The recommendation that a four-drug regimen be used initially for all patients is based on the current proportion of new tuberculosis cases supported by a retrospective analysis of data from various BMRC studies indicating that in the presence of INH resistance the four-drug regimen (1) was used in the initial phase (3). However, if therapy is being initiated after drug susceptibility test results are available, the regimen should be discontinued as soon as the results of drug susceptibility studies demonstrate that the isolate is susceptible to the first-line agents. The continuation phase of treatment should consist of INH and RIF given for a minimum of 4 months (18 weeks). Patients should be given the four-drug regimen ([Table 2](#)). The continuation phase can be given daily (Regimen 1a), twice weekly (Regimens 1b and 2a), or three times weekly (Regimen 1c) for patients who have cavitation on the initial or follow-up chest radiograph and are culture-positive at the time of completion of the initial phase of treatment. If the culture of the sputum obtained at 2 months is positive, observational data and expert opinion suggest that the continuation phase should be given daily (Regimen 1a).

5.2.2. Nine-month regimen

If PZA cannot be included in the initial regimen, or if the isolate is determined to be resistant to PZA (an unusual circumstance), the regimen should consist of INH, RIF, and EMB should be given for the initial 2 months (Regimen 4) followed by INH and RIF for 7 months given either daily or twice weekly (Regimen 4a).

5.2.3. Alternative regimens

In some cases, either because of intolerance or drug resistance, the above-described regimens cannot be used. In these instances, clinical trials conducted by the BMRC it was concluded that, in the presence of initial resistance to INH, if a four-drug regimen continuation phase there were no treatment failures and 7% relapses compared with 4% relapses among patients with fully sensitive resistance results are better when PZA is used throughout (5). On the basis of these data, when INH cannot be used or the regimen as an INH-containing regimen (Rating BI) (3). Alternatively, RIF and EMB for 12 months may be used, preferably with PZA. PZA should be given for a minimum of 12--18 months supplemented with PZA during at least the initial 2 months (Rating BIII). For extensive disease or to shorten the duration (e.g., to 12 months), (7,8).

Levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, or gatifloxacin may be useful in alternative regimens, but the potential role of a fluoroquinolone as a first-line agent cannot be used because of intolerance, regimens based on the principles described for treating multiple drug-resistant organisms should be used.

5.3. Deciding to Initiate Treatment

The decision to initiate combination chemotherapy for tuberculosis should be based on epidemiologic information, clinical and radiographic (preferably three) and, subsequently, cultures for mycobacteria. Rapid amplification tests, if used, can also confirm the diagnosis. The probability that a given patient has tuberculosis can be estimated. For example, a patient who has emigrated recently from a high-incidence area and a recent chest radiograph should be considered highly likely to have tuberculosis. In such situations combination drug therapy should be initiated promptly when a patient is seriously ill with a disorder that is thought possibly to be tuberculosis. For patients in whom tuberculosis is suspected and who have a life-threatening condition. Disseminated (miliary) tuberculosis, suspected tuberculosis and a high risk of transmitting *M. tuberculosis* if, in fact, she or he had the disease, combination chemotherapy should be used to minimize potential transmission.

A positive AFB smear provides strong inferential evidence for the diagnosis of tuberculosis. If the diagnosis is confirmed by clinical or radiographic improvement consistent with a response to treatment, the regimen can be continued to complete the initial evaluation, but a negative test does not exclude the diagnosis of active tuberculosis. However, a positive skin test supported by chest radiographs consistent with inactive tuberculosis, a diagnosis of latent tuberculosis infection (see below).

If the cultures are negative, the PPD-tuberculin skin test is positive (5 mm or greater induration), and there is no response to treatment for at least 2 months; 2) continue treatment with RIF, with or without INH, for a total of 4 months; or 3) continue treatment with INH with prior tuberculosis once active disease has been excluded.

If clinical suspicion for active tuberculosis is low, the options are to begin treatment with combination chemotherapy for 6 months (Figure 2, top). Even when the suspicion of active tuberculosis is low, treatment for latent tuberculosis infection with combination chemotherapy for 6 months (Figure 2, bottom) (11). In low-suspicion patients not initially treated, if cultures remain negative, the PPD-tuberculin skin test is positive (5 mm or greater induration) (11). The preferred options are INH for 9 months or RIF, with or without INH, for 4 months. RIF and INH can be monitored closely. However, this last regimen has been associated with an increased risk of hepatotoxicity and side effects. The main concern of combination chemotherapy is that, once active disease is excluded by negative cultures and lack of clinical or radiographic improvement, combination chemotherapy can be applied to the total duration of treatment recommended for latent tuberculosis infection (Figure 2, bottom).

5.4. Baseline and Follow-Up Evaluations

Patients suspected of having tuberculosis should have appropriate specimens collected for microscopic examination and mycobacterial cultures obtained 8--24 hours apart. In patients who are not producing sputum spontaneously, induction of sputum using aerosolized hypertonic saline may be necessary to obtain specimens. Susceptibility testing for INH, RIF, and EMB should be performed on an initial positive culture in reference laboratories and be limited to specimens from patients who have had prior therapy, have been in contact with a patient with tuberculosis, or who have positive cultures after more than 3 months of treatment.

At the time treatment is initiated, in addition to the microbiologic examinations, it is recommended that all patients with tuberculosis suggesting a risk for hepatitis B or C, for example, injection drug use, birth in Asia or Africa, or HIV infection, should have a baseline lymphocyte count measurement. Measurements of AST, bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase, and serum creatinine and a platelet count (Ishihara tests) should be performed when EMB is to be used.

During treatment of patients with pulmonary tuberculosis, at a minimum, a sputum specimen for AFB smear and culture should be obtained subsequently, important decisions concerning the continuation-phase regimen hinge on the microbiological status. For patients who had positive AFB smears at the time of diagnosis, it is important to provide an early assessment of the response to treatment, especially if the sputum is culture negative; this occurs most frequently among patients with far advanced cavitary tuberculosis after the first relapse or sputa are culture negative; even if noted later in treatment. However, repeat cultures should be obtained to confirm that the early relapse is not a drug susceptibility failure, even if noted later in treatment. Drug susceptibility tests should be repeated on isolates from patients who have positive cultures after 3 months of treatment. For patients with extrapulmonary tuberculosis the frequency and kinds of evaluations will depend on the sites involved and the extent of disease. In addition to the microbiological evaluations, it is essential that patients have clinical evaluations at least monthly to identify relapse. For patients with positive cultures at diagnosis, a repeat chest radiograph at completion of 2 months of treatment may be useful.

For patients with extrapulmonary tuberculosis the frequency and kinds of evaluations will depend on the sites involved and the extent of disease. In addition to the microbiological evaluations, it is essential that patients have clinical evaluations at least monthly to identify relapse. For patients with positive cultures at diagnosis, a repeat chest radiograph at completion of 2 months of treatment may be useful.

which subsequent examinations can be compared, but, as with the 2-month examination, it is not essential. When the initial sputum culture is noted, generally by the time 2 months of treatment has been completed. Thus, in patients with negative initial cultures, a chest radiograph at 2 months of treatment is desirable. Generally, follow-up after completion of therapy is not necessary.

As a routine, it is not necessary to monitor liver or renal function or platelet count for patients being treated with first-line drugs. Liver function test measurements. Patients who have stable abnormalities of hepatic or renal function at baseline should have repeat measurements if there is any worsening. Patients receiving EMB should be questioned regarding visual disturbances at monthly intervals; monthly repeat chest radiographs exceeding 15--20 mg/kg (the recommended range) and for patients receiving the drug for more than 2 months. Monitoring of

5.5. Identification and Management of Patients at Increased Risk of Relapse

The result of a sputum culture at the conclusion of the initial phase of treatment (2 months) has been shown to correlate with clinical trials performed by the BMRC, the regimens that had the highest proportion of patients with a positive sputum culture within 2 years (17). Of greater relevance to the current recommendations, data from USPHS Trial 22 comparing once weekly treatment with twice weekly treatment in patients who had a positive culture at 2 months in both study arms (18). Cavitation on the initial chest radiograph was also an independent predictor of relapse. The presence of both cavitation and a positive culture at completion of 2 months of therapy was associated with a 21% rate of relapse reported in a retrospective analysis of data from BMRC trials (17) and from a USPHS trial conducted in Poland (19).

The most effective means of decreasing the likelihood of relapse for patients at increased risk has not yet been determined by clinical trials. Prolongation of the continuation phase from 4 to 6 months decreased the rate of relapse from 22 to 7% ($p < 0.025$) (20). Also, a 7-month initial phase did not improve the efficacy of RIF-containing regimens (21). It has been reported that for patients at high risk of relapse, a 7-month initial phase resulted in significantly better results compared with patients in an earlier trial (4).

In view of this evidence and on the basis of expert opinion, it is recommended that treatment for patients who have cavitation on the initial chest radiograph should be extended with INH and RIF for an additional 3 months for a total of 9 months (Rating AIII).

In USPHS Study 22 patients treated with INH and RIF twice weekly in the continuation phase who had either cavitation on the initial chest radiograph or a positive sputum culture at 2 months (Table 11) (18). This rate of adverse outcomes is not deemed to be sufficient to recommend prolongation of the continuation phase more closely and consideration given to lengthening treatment if there are suggestions of a poor response. Additional factors that might include being more than 10% underweight at diagnosis, having HIV infection, or having a positive sputum culture at 2 months (but not both) might include being more than 10% underweight at diagnosis, having HIV infection, or having a positive sputum culture at 2 months. Patients with noncavitary pulmonary tuberculosis and a negative AFB smear at 2 months who are started on the once weekly regimen should have treatment extended by an additional 3 months for a total of 9 months.

5.6. Definition of Completion of Therapy

Treatment for a defined duration without accounting for the number of doses taken can result in undertreatment. Therefore, the number of doses taken---not solely on the duration of therapy (Table 2). For example, the 6-month daily (given 7 days/week) regimen should be administered by DOT at 5 days/week, the minimum number of doses is 130. A similar reduction in the target number of doses can be achieved. In some cases, either because of drug toxicity or nonadherence to the regimen, the specified number of doses cannot be administered. If the number of doses for the initial phase be delivered within 3 months and those for the 4-month continuation phase be delivered within 4 months, the targets are not met the patient must be considered to have interrupted therapy and be managed as described below.

5.7. Interruptions in Therapy

Interruptions in therapy are common in the treatment of tuberculosis. When interruptions occur, the person responsible for such interruptions should be identified and the patient intended originally. This decision depends in part on whether the interruption occurred during the initial or the continuation phase. The more serious the effect and the greater the need to restart the treatment from the beginning. Continuous treatment is more important in the initial phase because the risk of developing drug resistance is greatest. During the continuation phase, the number of bacilli is much smaller and the goal of treatment is to maintain the status of the patient before and after the interruption are also important considerations.

There is no evidence on which to base detailed recommendations for managing interruptions in treatment, and no recommendations are made (Figure 5), modified from the New York City Bureau of Tuberculosis Control Clinical Policies and Protocols (22), is presented. If the interruption in treatment is 14 days or more in duration, treatment should be restarted from the beginning. However, if the lapse is less than 14 days, the initial phase should be given. If the interruption in treatment occurs during the continuation phase after the patient has received at least 80% of the planned total doses, treatment may not be necessary if the patient's sputum was AFB smear negative on initial presentation. However, for patients with a positive sputum culture at 2 months, a repeat sputum culture is warranted. If the patient has received less than 80% of the planned total doses and the lapse is 3 months or more in duration, treatment should be continued to complete a full course.

At the time the patient is returned to treatment sputum cultures should be obtained and repeat drug susceptibility testing performed. If the sputum cultures are negative the patient could be treated as having culture-negative tuberculosis and given an additional 4 months of treatment should be used. If the patient was already being managed with DOT, additional measures will be necessary to ensure complete adherence. Consultation with an expert is recommended to assist in managing treatment interruptions.

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6. Practical Aspects of Treatment

6.1. Drug Administration

The first-line antituberculosis medications should be administered together as single dose rather than in divided doses. A single daily dose also facilitates using DOT. Ingestion with food delays or moderately decreases the absorption of the first-line drugs. The effects of food are of little clinical significance. Thus, if patients have epigastric distress or nausea with the first-line drugs, the effects of food are of little clinical significance. The absorption of INH can be substantially decreased when the drug is ingested with food for flavor, rather than glucose or lactose. However, sorbitol can cause diarrhea, limiting the acceptability of the commercial formulation. Antacids have minimal effects on the absorption of the first-line antituberculosis drugs. With the exception of fluoroquinolone antituberculosis drugs. In the absence of data, it is preferable to administer the drugs on an empty stomach if they are tolerated. For the fluoroquinolones, an interaction that has been associated with failure of antibiotic therapy (2,3). Therefore,

antacids have minimal effects on the absorption of the first-line antituberculosis drugs. With the exception of fluoroquinolone antituberculosis drugs. In the absence of data, it is preferable to administer the drugs on an empty stomach if they are tolerated. For the fluoroquinolones, an interaction that has been associated with failure of antibiotic therapy (2,3). Therefore,

chewable tablet form of didanosine, sucralfate, iron, magnesium, calcium, zinc, or vitamins or dietary supplements (e.g., Ens Parenteral therapy is indicated for severely ill patients who cannot take oral therapy and may be useful for the uncommon pathogens. Aminoglycosides, capreomycin, and most fluoroquinolones are available for intravenous administration.

6.2. Fixed-Dose Combination Preparations

There are two fixed-dose combination preparations currently available for use in the United States, a combination of INH and Rifampin (Current Use). (A four-drug combination of INH, RIF, EMB, and PZA is available in some countries.) Two tablets of Rifamate that is available in the United States contains INH (50 mg), RIF (120 mg), and PZA (300 mg). Six tablets of Rifater[®] would typically be used in the United States because the RIF is less bioavailable in this formulation. These fixed-dose combinations have been used for twice weekly treatment. It should be noted that the dose of PZA in Rifater[®] is such that additional PZA tablets will be required. Although there is no evidence indicating that fixed-dose combination medications are superior to individual drugs, expert opinion is not possible. Moreover, they are strongly recommended in international recommendations of the WHO and IUATLD. The benefits and the potential for reducing medication errors make them preferable to individual medications in many instances. When possible, use the trade names of RIF (Rifadin[®]) and the fixed-dose combinations (Rifamate[®], Rifater[®]).

6.3. Management of Common Adverse Effects

As is true with all medications, combination chemotherapy for tuberculosis is associated with a predictable incidence of adverse effects. Their frequency is described in Section 3: Drugs in Current Use.

Mild adverse effects can generally be managed with symptomatic therapy, whereas with more severe effects the offending drug should be stopped. In the case of adverse effects it is at least equally important that first-line drugs not be stopped without adequate justification.

The following is a summary, based largely on clinical experience and expert opinion, of the approaches that should be taken to manage serious adverse reactions often requires expert consultation.

6.3.1. Gastrointestinal upset: nausea, vomiting, poor appetite, abdominal pain

Gastrointestinal reactions are common, particularly in the first few weeks of therapy. Many of the antituberculosis drugs can cause an increase in bilirubin should be measured. If the AST level is less than three times the upper limit of normal, the symptoms are assumed to be mild. If the AST level is more than three times the upper limit of normal the symptoms should be assumed to represent hepatic toxicity, and the patient should be evaluated as described in Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease. The initial approach to gastrointestinal intolerance, not associated with hepatic toxicity, is to change the hour of drug administration. If the symptoms persist, the drug administration should be altered, preferably to be closer to mealtime. Alternatively, food can be taken at the time of receiving self-administered therapy can take the medications at bedtime. If gastrointestinal intolerance persists it may be best to stop the drug.

6.3.2. Rash

All drugs used in treating tuberculosis can cause a rash. The response to a patient with a rash depends on its severity. The rash should be treated with antihistamines should be given for symptomatic relief, but all antituberculosis medications can be continued. A petechial rash should be checked and, if low, RIF hypersensitivity should be presumed to be the cause. RIF should be stopped and the platelet count rechecked. If the rash is erythematous rash, especially if it is associated with fever and/or mucous membrane involvement, all drugs should be stopped. If the rash is mild (one or two oral agents) should be started. When the rash is substantially improved the medications can be restarted one by one, starting with the most important agent, followed by INH, and then EMB or PZA. If the rash recurs the last drug added should be stopped. The rash should not be restarted unless the rash was relatively mild and the fourth drug is considered essential for therapy.

6.3.3. Drug fever

Recurrence of fever in a patient who has been receiving therapy for several weeks should suggest drug fever, especially if the fever is not due to tuberculosis. That fever from tuberculosis may persist for as long as 2 months after therapy has been initiated (6). Fever may also be a manifestation of HIV Infection (7). The clinical hallmark of drug fever is that the patient looks and feels well despite having a high fever (often without other symptoms present).

The first step in management of a possible drug fever is to ensure that there is no superinfection or worsening of tuberculosis. The fever should resolve within 24 hours. Patients with severe tuberculosis should be given at least three new drugs in the interim. Once the fever has resolved a rash should be followed.

6.3.4. Hepatitis

(Management of patients with baseline abnormal liver function is described in Section 8.8: Hepatic Disease.) Three of the first-line drugs (INH, RIF, and PZA) can cause an increase in bilirubin level three or more times the upper limit of normal in the presence of symptoms, or five or more times the upper limit of normal in the absence of symptoms. An AST level 5--10 times normal defines moderate toxicity, and an AST level greater than 10 times normal defines severe toxicity. Occasionally there are disproportionate increases in bilirubin and alkaline phosphatase. This pattern is more consistent with rhabdomyolysis. It is important to note that an asymptomatic increase in AST concentration occurs in nearly 20% of patients treated with the first-line drugs because of modest asymptomatic elevations of AST, but the frequency of clinical and laboratory monitoring should be increased. However, if AST levels are more than five times the upper limit of normal (with or without symptoms) or more than three times the upper limit of normal in the absence of symptoms, the patient should be evaluated carefully. Similarly, a significant increase in bilirubin and/or alkaline phosphatase is cause for a prompt evaluation. The cause should be questioned carefully regarding symptoms suggestive of biliary tract disease and exposures to other potential hepatotoxins, particularly alcohol. Because the schedule for restarting antituberculosis medications is slower with hepatitis than for rash or drug fever it is generally recommended to stop the drug.

of hepatotoxicity can be determined and an appropriate longer term regimen begun. The suspect antituberculosis medication: upper limit of normal. (In patients with elevated baseline AST from preexisting liver disease, drugs should be restarted when than is INH or PZA (Table 10) (10) and is the most effective agent, it should be restarted first. If there is no increase in AST increase. If symptoms recur or AST increases the last drug added should be stopped. If RIF and INH are tolerated, and hepat circumstance, depending on the number of doses of PZA taken, severity of disease, and bacteriological status, therapy might

6.4. Serum Drug Concentration Measurements

The first-line drugs (INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB) have relatively predictable pharmacokinetics (11,12) and are highly efficacious. Altered metabolism of the first-line drugs, resulting in failure of therapy (15,16) Second-line agents have a much narrower therapeutic range (rarely causing toxicity) than the first-line drugs, and the consequences of treatment failure of drug-resistant tuberculosis may be severe. Therapeutic drug monitoring may be helpful: 1) patients with treatment failure that is not explained by nonadherence or drug resistance, 2) the management of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis with second-line drugs. Be aware, however, that therapeutic drug monitoring is not a substitute for clinical judgment in the management of tuberculosis. An important limitation is the lack of sufficient data to formulate clinically validated therapeutic ranges for antituberculous drugs. Therapeutic drug monitoring of rifamycins is to use the distribution of concentrations achieved in healthy volunteers as the therapeutic range. However, in patients with HIV-related tuberculosis, therapeutic drug monitoring of first-line drugs among HIV-infected patients with active tuberculosis are frequently lower than those in healthy volunteers (17,18) The disadvantages of therapeutic drug monitoring are as follows: 1) the time necessary, from both patients and providers, to obtain drug concentrations, and 2) the cost of drug monitoring.

Until more data are available, it seems prudent to restrict therapeutic drug monitoring for the first-line drugs to patients who have evidence of severe gastrointestinal or metabolic abnormalities. Examples of such circumstances include severe gastroparesis described above, patients with HIV-related tuberculosis may have an increased incidence of malabsorption of antituberculous drugs. Therapeutic drug monitoring of first-line drugs among patients with HIV-related tuberculosis is not sufficient to warrant routine therapeutic drug monitoring.

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7. Drug Interactions

7.1. Interactions Affecting Antituberculosis Drugs

Drug-drug interactions can result in changes in the concentrations of one or both of the drugs involved. In the case of the antituberculosis drugs, much more often the antituberculosis drugs cause clinically relevant changes in the concentrations of the antituberculosis drugs; much more often the antituberculosis drugs cause clinically relevant changes in the concentrations of the antituberculosis drugs.

fluoroquinolones.

Rifabutin is partially metabolized by cytochrome P450 (CYP) 3A. Inhibitors of CYP3A increase serum concentrations of rifabutin (for example, administration of zalcitabine, a potent CYP3A inhibitor, with the standard daily dose of rifabutin (300 mg) increases its concentrations (1) and is associated with increased rates of leukopenia, arthralgias, skin discoloration, and uveitis (2), all recognized side effects of rifabutin). Administration of rifabutin with a CYP3A inducer decreases its concentrations, perhaps to ineffective levels. For example, efavirenz, a potent CYP3A inducer, decreases the concentrations of rifabutin (3). Recommendations for making dose adjustments of rifabutin when it is given with commonly used CYP3A inhibitors and inducers are given in Table 11. The nature of antiretroviral therapy strongly suggest that the management of cases of HIV-related tuberculosis should involve a person taking antiretroviral therapy. Absorption of the fluoroquinolones is markedly decreased by ingestion with medications containing divalent cations (calcium (10), sucralfate (11); and the chewable tablet formulation of didanosine (12). These drug interactions can be avoided by using alternative fluoroquinolones (13).

7.2. Effects of Antituberculosis Drugs on Other Drugs

7.2.1. Drug interactions due to rifamycins

The drugs used to treat tuberculosis affect the metabolism of many other drugs, and can result in a lack of efficacy (interactions). The clinically relevant drug--drug interactions involving the antituberculosis drugs are due to the effect of the rifamycins (rifampin, rifabutin, and rifapentine) which are inducers of a variety of metabolic pathways, particularly those involving the various isozymes of the cytochrome P450 system. Rifampin decreases the serum concentrations of many drugs, sometimes to levels that are subtherapeutic. The rifamycins differ substantially in their enzyme-inducing activity, and rifabutin is the least potent enzyme inducer (19).

The well-described, clinically relevant drug--drug interactions involving the rifamycins are presented in Table 12 (1,5,15,20-22). Other drug--drug interactions have not been investigated fully and additional clinically relevant interactions undoubtedly will be described. Therefore, it is important to be aware of these interactions with rifamycins.

Some of these drug--drug interactions can be managed with close clinical or laboratory monitoring and dose increases of the drug. A decrease in concentrations of a concomitant medication may be such that serum concentrations cannot be restored by a dose increase. It is critical to remember that the dose of this drug will probably need to be decreased within the 2 weeks after the rifamycin is discontinued. In some situations, rifabutin can sometimes be used in place of rifampin, if there is an unacceptable drug--drug interaction between rifampin and another drug (89). All the rifamycins may cause unacceptable decreases in the serum concentrations of certain drugs, such as de

7.2.2. Drug interactions due to isoniazid

Isoniazid is a relatively potent inhibitor of several cytochrome P450 isozymes (CYP2C9, CYP2C19, and CYP2E1) (92), but not all. It inhibits the metabolism of some drugs to the point of toxicity. The clearest examples of toxicity due to the inhibitory activity of isoniazid are the anticonvulsants carbamazepine and phenytoin, and benzodiazepines metabolized by oxidation, such as diazepam (85) and triazolam (97), but not those metabolized by conjugation. Isoniazid decreases the serum concentrations of many of these drugs. The available data demonstrate that the inductive effect of rifampin outweighs the inhibitory effect of isoniazid is a decrease in the concentrations of drugs such as phenytoin (59) and diazepam (85).

Isoniazid may increase toxicity of other drugs---acetaminophen (98), valproate (99), serotonergic antidepressants (100), disulfiram (101), and others. Isoniazid has been well studied.

7.2.3. Drug interactions due to fluoroquinolones

Ciprofloxacin (104) inhibits the metabolism of theophylline and can cause clinical theophylline toxicity (105). However, levofloxacin does not inhibit theophylline metabolism.

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(Includes references cited in Table 12.)

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8. Treatment in Special Situations

8.1. HIV Infection

Treatment of tuberculosis in patients with HIV infection follows the same principles as treatment of HIV-uninfected patients with tuberculosis. These differences include the potential for drug interactions, especially between the rifamycins and antiretroviral agents, and the development of acquired resistance to rifamycins when treated with highly intermittent therapy.

8.1.1. Clinical trials of treatment for tuberculosis in HIV-infected patients

There have been seven prospective studies of 6-month regimens for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in patients with HIV infection. Three were controlled trials (1-4), and three were observational in nature (5,6). These studies differed somewhat in design, patient population, and therefore, it is difficult to provide meaningful cross-study comparisons. All of the studies reported a good early clinical response, and treatment failure rates were similar to these indices of treatment efficacy in patients without HIV infection.

Recurrence rates have varied among studies, with most reporting rates of 5% or less (2,3,5,6). In one study from the Democratic Republic of Congo, compared with 3% in the 12-month arm, nonadherence in the continuation phase and/or exogenous reinfection may have contributed to the higher relapse rate versus twice weekly INH--RIF in the continuation phase of therapy, 5 of 30 (17%) HIV-infected patients receiving treatment with INH--RIF arm (4). Four of the five relapsed patients in the once weekly group had resistance to rifampin alone compared with none in the twice weekly group. It is difficult to interpret the relapse rate of 10%.

In an observational study of twice weekly INH--rifabutin among HIV-infected tuberculosis patients also receiving antiretroviral therapy, failure/relapse was low (4.6%), *M. tuberculosis* isolated from all five of these patients was resistant to RIF alone. The phenotypic sensitivity to RIF therapy, albeit at a lower rate (3). In all of these studies, acquired RIF resistance occurred only among patients with CD4+ counts <100/ μ l.

A consistent finding in the treatment studies has been a high mortality rate among HIV-seropositive patients. In most studies with tuberculosis, but deaths during the continuation phase of therapy are usually due to other AIDS-related conditions. Mortality due to advanced HIV disease (1,3,6,8). However, the use of effective antiretroviral therapy during the treatment of tuberculosis in patients with HIV infection is described subsequently (9).

A major concern in treating tuberculosis in the setting of HIV infection is the interaction of RIF with antiretroviral agents (see Section 5.2) against *M. tuberculosis* but has less of an effect in inducing hepatic microsomal enzymes than RIF. Data from clinical trials by our colleagues (10) reported the first randomized clinical trial comparing rifabutin (150 and 300 mg) with RIF in a 6-month regimen. There were few adverse reactions.

Investigators from South Africa reported a randomized, open-label trial comparing rifabutin with RIF in a standard four-drug regimen for the treatment of tuberculosis in HIV-infected patients. The HIV seroprevalence was reportedly low at the time of the study. In the continuation phase, the medications were given twice weekly. Of those given rifabutin had negative sputum cultures. The relapse rate was 3.8% in the RIF group versus 5.1% in the rifabutin group. Only one study examining the effectiveness of rifabutin included HIV-infected patients (12). A single blind randomized study comparing rifabutin together with INH, EMB, and PZA. Time to sputum conversion was similar between groups when controlling for baseline characteristics. Investigators in Uganda have reported a higher mortality rate among HIV-infected patients treated with regimens that did not include rifampin compared with an RIF-based regimen. In addition to the higher mortality associated with the setting of HIV infection (14,15). Thus, every effort should be made to use a rifamycin-based regimen for the entire course of treatment.

8.1.2. Treatment recommendations

Recommendations for the treatment of tuberculosis in HIV-infected adults are, with two exceptions, identical to those for HIV-uninfected adults. For patients with HIV infection, EMB given for 2 months followed by INH and RIF for 4 months when the disease is caused by organisms that are known to be susceptible to intermittent administration as listed in [Table 1](#) and described in Section 5.2: Recommended Regimens. However, on the basis of sputum culture counts <100/ μ l, it is recommended that patients with advanced HIV disease be treated with daily or three times weekly therapy. Intermittent administration should not be used in patients with CD4+ cell counts <100/ μ l. Twice weekly therapy may be considered in patients with CD4+ cell counts >100/ μ l. Administration of INH--rifapentine in the continuation phase should not be used in any patient with HIV infection.

Six months should be considered the minimum duration of treatment for adults, even for patients with culture-negative tuberculosis. For patients with culture-positive tuberculosis, prolongation of the continuation phase to 7 months (a total of 9 months treatment) should be strongly considered.

HIV-related tuberculosis. Although there are no data on which to base recommendations, the American Academy of Pediatrics (17).

All patients with tuberculosis should be advised to undergo voluntary counseling and HIV testing. Efforts should be made to tuberculosis. Ideally, patients should be managed by physicians who are expert in the treatment of tuberculosis/HIV coinfection. Communication between them is essential and should occur frequently throughout the course of treatment.

8.1.3. Safety and tolerability

The frequency of antituberculosis drug-related toxicity in patients with HIV infection has varied from study to study. In a retrospective change of regimen because of adverse drug reactions (18). RIF was the drug implicated most commonly, producing an adverse reaction in 21% of patients who developed a rash but in none was the treatment interrupted (1). Paresthesia developed in 21% of the cases, suggesting that other investigators have reported low rates of significant adverse reactions (3,5,6,19). In the three times weekly regimen study, 6% of patients (6). In HIV-infected patients it is often difficult to distinguish an adverse reaction to antituberculosis drugs from the adverse reaction to other drugs taken concurrently. Because of the difficulties in diagnosing a drug reaction and in determining the responsible agent, the first step is to obtain strong evidence that the antituberculosis drug was the cause of the reaction. In such situations consultation with an expert in drug toxicity is helpful. In a study reported by Ungo and associates (20), it was demonstrated that the relative risk of developing drug-induced hepatitis was 14-fold greater, respectively, compared with a 14-fold relative risk in patients with both hepatitis C virus and HIV infections. This finding was significantly greater in patients with HIV and hepatitis C virus who were given INH (21). Current IDSA and USPHS guidelines recommend that it is probably prudent to provide more frequent clinical and laboratory monitoring, as described for patients with preexisting liver disease and tuberculosis.

8.1.4. Concurrent administration of antiretroviral agents and rifamycins

Most patients with tuberculosis have relatively advanced HIV disease and, thus, antiretroviral therapy is indicated (23). Antiretroviral therapy for tuberculosis, if it is otherwise indicated. Nevertheless, it is not advisable to begin both antiretroviral therapy and combination therapy with new drugs with interactions and overlapping toxicities that would be difficult to evaluate. Although there are few data on which to base a recommendation, it is initiated first.

Although antiretroviral therapy has a dramatic effect in decreasing progression of HIV disease (decreasing CD4⁺ cell counts), the combination of antiretroviral therapy in the setting of tuberculosis therapy is complex. In those patients not already receiving antiretroviral therapy, the combination associated with a high incidence of side effects and paradoxical reactions, some severe enough to warrant discontinuation of therapy. In a short time period may present a tremendous adherence challenge for patients adjusting to the diagnoses of both tuberculosis and HIV. Antituberculosis therapy has the potential advantages of being better able to ascribe a specific cause for a drug side effect, decreasing the risk of drug--drug interactions, and ready availability of multidrug antiretroviral therapy. Until there have been controlled studies evaluating the optimal time for starting antiretroviral therapy in patients with tuberculosis, the time of initial response to treatment for tuberculosis, occurrence of side effects, and ready availability of multidrug antiretroviral therapy should be initiated at any time after tuberculosis treatment was begun, based on current recommendations (23). For patients who are already receiving antiretroviral therapy, the regimen may need to be modified on the basis of the risk of drug--drug interactions, as described in Section 7: Drug Interactions. Even though drug interactions are common, a rifamycin should not be excluded from the tuberculosis treatment regimen for patients who are already receiving antiretroviral therapy. Treatment with rifamycins is likely to delay sputum conversion, will prolong the duration of therapy, and possibly result in a poorer clinical outcome and should be used if these categories of antiretroviral agents are being administered.

The categories of antiretroviral agents available currently are nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), nucleotide reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), and protease inhibitors (PIs). The NRTIs and NNRTIs do not have clinically significant drug interactions with the rifamycins without any dose adjustment being necessary. However, the PIs and NNRTIs, depending on the specific drug, may have clinically significant interactions with the rifamycins, as described in Section 7.1: Interactions Affecting Antituberculosis Drugs.

When rifabutin is combined with antiretroviral agents, its dose and the dose of the antiretroviral agents may require adjustment (25). All 25 patients became culture negative by 2 months and no relapses were reported after a median follow-up of 13 months. All patients achieved viral loads of less than 500 copies/ml. Thus, it appears that both tuberculosis and HIV can be treated successfully with combination therapy. Previous guidelines from CDC specifically stated that RIF was contraindicated in patients who were taking any PI or NNRTI. However, certain combinations of antiretroviral agents (27,28). As recommended by CDC (27), rifampin can be used with a regimen of zidovudine, zalcitabine, and didanosine (either hard-gel or soft-gel capsule), and with a triple nucleoside regimen. As new antiretroviral agents and more pharmacokinetic data become available, recommendations are frequently revised, obtaining the most up-to-date information from the CDC website, <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/whatstnew/> compiled by Medscape, can be found at <http://www.medscape.com/updates/quickguide>.

When starting NNRTIs or PIs for tuberculosis patients receiving RIF, a 2-week "washout" period is generally recommended to avoid the enzyme-inducing activity of RIF. During this time, rifabutin may be started to ensure that the tuberculosis treatment regimen is initiated. When tuberculosis treatment is begun, an assessment of the antiretroviral regimen should be undertaken and, if necessary, changes made to ensure that the combination is safe and effective. Determination of whether to use RIF and the dose of the rifamycin must take into account the antiretroviral regimen.

8.1.5. Paradoxical reaction

On occasion, patients have a temporary exacerbation of symptoms, signs, or radiographic manifestations of tuberculosis (paradoxical reaction). This reaction occurs in patients without HIV infection, especially with lymphadenitis, but it is more common among HIV-infected patients. These reactions are usually brought about by antiretroviral therapy or, perhaps, by treatment of the tuberculosis itself. Narita and colleagues (29) reported

paradoxical worsening after beginning treatment for tuberculosis compared with 7% of those who were not taking antiretroviral therapy. Signs of paradoxical worsening and the reactions were not associated with antiretroviral therapy. Signs of lymphadenopathy, new lymphadenopathy, expanding central nervous system lesions, worsening of pulmonary parenchymal infiltrates, and reaction only after a thorough evaluation has excluded other possible causes, especially tuberculosis treatment failure. A paradoxical reaction that is not severe should be treated symptomatically without a change in antituberculosis or antiretroviral therapy. Airway compromise from enlarging lymph nodes, enlarging serosal fluid collections, and sepsis syndrome, have not been studied. Rifampin 1 mg/kg and gradually reduced after 1 to 2 weeks.

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8.2. Children and Adolescents

Children most commonly develop tuberculosis as a complication of the initial infection with *M. tuberculosis* (primary tubercle and lower lung zone infiltrates, and the absence of cavitation. However, children, occasionally, and adolescents, more frequently produce sputum). The lesions of primary tuberculosis have a smaller number of *M. tuberculosis* organisms than those of secondary tuberculosis. Drug resistance is a rare phenomenon among children.

Because it is more difficult to isolate *M. tuberculosis* from a child with pulmonary tuberculosis than from an adult, it is frequently presumed to be the source of the infection in the child to guide the choice of drugs for the child. In children in whom the source of infection is not known, organisms are isolated via three early morning gastric aspirations (optimally during hospitalization), bronchoalveolar lavage, or tissue biopsy. Because tuberculosis in infants and children younger than 4 years of age is more likely to disseminate, treatment should be started as soon as possible. A positive tuberculin skin test and an abnormal chest radiograph (atelectasis, parenchymal infiltrate, or hilar adenopathy) should receive treatment. Several controlled and observational trials of 6-month therapy in children with pulmonary tuberculosis caused by organisms sensitive to INH and RIF have shown that 6 months of therapy with INH and RIF has been shown to be effective for hilar adenopathy and pulmonary disease caused by organisms sensitive to INH and RIF, supplemented during the first 2 weeks to 2 months with PZA. This three-drug combination has a success rate of 90% with 3 times weekly therapy from the beginning with good results (1,7).

Many experts prefer to treat children with three (rather than four) drugs in the initial phase because the bacillary population is smaller, and because of the difficulty in performing visual acuity tests in young children who are being treated with EMB. In children who are susceptible, the initial phase should consist of INH, RIF, and PZA. If the susceptibility of the presumed infecting strain is not known, three drugs should be used. However, children and adolescents with adult-type pulmonary tuberculosis, as defined above, should be treated with four drugs (10). When epidemiologic circumstances (Table 6) suggest an increased risk of drug-resistant organisms being present, EMB

routine eye testing. Older children should have monthly evaluations of visual acuity and color discrimination while taking EI. The usual doses for daily and twice weekly treatment in children are listed in Section 3, Drugs in Current Use, and shown in Table 1. Treatment should be recommended for infants, children, and adolescents who are being treated with INH and who have nutritional deficiencies, and for whom DOT should be used for all children with tuberculosis. The lack of pediatric dosage forms of most antituberculosis medications and the tolerance of the medications must be monitored closely. Parents should not be relied on to supervise DOT.

Because of the difficulties in isolating *M. tuberculosis* from children, bacteriological examinations are less useful in evaluating the importance of treatment. However, hilar adenopathy and resultant atelectasis may require 2--3 years to resolve. Thus, a persisting abnormal chest radiograph. Recognition of treatment failure or relapse in a child is subject to the same difficulties as making a diagnosis. Thus, clinical and microbiologic cultures. A decision to modify the drug regimen should not be made lightly, but often must be made on clinical grounds only. In general, extrapulmonary tuberculosis in children can be treated with the same regimens as pulmonary disease. Exceptions are discussed in Section 5.3.3. A fourth drug is recommended in the initial phase when there is disseminated tuberculosis. The recommended regimen is 2HRZEb/4HR. The optimal treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in children and adolescents with HIV infection is unknown. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends 2HRZEb/4HR (INH and RIF, plus PZA for the first 2 months), and the total duration of therapy should be at least 9 months (11).

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8.3. Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis can involve virtually any organ or tissue in the body. Nonpulmonary sites tend to be more common among children. For diagnosis, appropriate specimens including pleural fluid; pericardial or peritoneal fluid; pleural, pericardial, and peritoneal fluid; and cerebrospinal fluid should be obtained for AFB staining, mycobacterial culture, and drug susceptibility testing (1). Tissue specimens should be cultured for *M. tuberculosis* complex. The absence of AFB and of granulomas or even failure to culture *M. tuberculosis* does not exclude the diagnosis of tuberculosis. The diagnosis is often limited by the difficulty in obtaining follow-up specimens. Thus, response often must be judged on the basis of clinical and radiographic findings. The basic principles that underlie the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis also apply to extrapulmonary forms of the disease. For extrapulmonary tuberculosis, compared with pulmonary disease, increasing evidence, including some randomized controlled trials, suggests that a 6- to 9-month regimen (2 months of INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB followed by 4- to 7 months of INH, RIF, and PZA) is strongly suspected of being resistant to the first-line drugs. If PZA cannot be used in the initial phase, the continuation phase should include EMB. The exception to the recommendation for a 6- to 9-month regimen is tuberculous meningitis, for which the optimal length of treatment is unknown. Although in extrapulmonary tuberculosis there have not been controlled trials of the various patterns of intermittent drug administration, the use of INH--rifapentine once weekly in the continuation phase. Given the lack of experience with this regimen, it is not recommended. Corticosteroid treatment is a useful adjunct in treating some forms of extrapulmonary tuberculosis, specifically meningitis and lymph node tuberculosis. The duration of treatment for extrapulmonary tuberculosis and the use of corticosteroids are shown in Table 13.

8.3.1. Lymph node tuberculosis

A 6-month regimen as described in Section 5, Recommended Treatment Regimens, and Table 2 is recommended for initial treatment of lymph node tuberculosis (16). Affected lymph nodes may enlarge while patients are receiving appropriate therapy or after the end of treatment without treatment. After treatment as well. Therapeutic lymph node excision is not indicated except in unusual circumstances. For large lymph node tuberculosis, drainage appears to be beneficial, although this approach has not been examined systematically (Rating BIII). It should be noted that lymph node tuberculosis is caused by nontuberculous mycobacteria.

8.3.2. Bone and joint tuberculosis

Several studies have examined treatment of bone and joint tuberculosis and have shown that 6- to 9-month regimens containing isoniazid, rifampin, and pyrazinamide are effective. The difficulties in assessing response, however, some experts tend to favor the 9-month duration. A randomized trial performed by the Tuberculosis of the Spine (13) demonstrated no additional benefit of surgical debridement or radical operation (resection of tuberculous abscess) over chemotherapy alone. Myelopathy with or without functional impairment most often responds to chemotherapy. In two Mexican patients in an earlier study (19) had complete resolution of myelopathy or complete functional recovery when treated with chemotherapy. Situations that include failure to respond to chemotherapy with evidence of ongoing infection, the relief of cord compression in patients with spinal tuberculosis, and the relief of cord compression in patients with spinal tuberculosis.

In a small study of peritoneal tuberculosis alternate patients received adjunctive corticosteroid therapy for 4 months (total of 23 patients), but the difference was not statistically significant.

8.3.9. Other sites of involvement

As noted above, tuberculosis can involve any organ or tissue. In treating tuberculosis in sites other than those mentioned, the individual patients.

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8.4. Culture-Negative Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Adults

Failure to isolate *M. tuberculosis* from appropriately collected specimens in persons who, because of clinical or radiographic evidence, are thought to have tuberculosis. For the United States as a whole, about 17% of the reported new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have negative cultures. Errors in specimen processing and laboratory techniques may result in failure to isolate organisms from patients who have active tuberculosis. Appropriate diagnostic studies undertaken in patients who have what appears to be culture-negative tuberculosis. At a minimum, sputum induction with hypertonic saline if necessary) for AFB smears and cultures for mycobacteria as part of the diagnostic workup. Testing, such as bronchoscopy with bronchoalveolar lavage and biopsy, should be considered before making a presumptive diagnosis. Patients who, on the basis of careful clinical and radiographic evaluation, are thought to have pulmonary tuberculosis should be treated. If *M. tuberculosis* is isolated in culture, treatment for active disease should be continued. Patients who have negative cultures but who have radiographic evidence of disease should be followed up clinically and radiographically at the time 2 months of therapy has been completed to determine whether there is improvement and no other etiology is identified, treatment should be continued for active tuberculosis. A 4-drug regimen (2HRZE) is successful with only 1.2% relapses during an average follow-up of 44 months (2). However, because the results of cultures on two-drug therapy with INH and RIF alone is not recommended, but the continuation phase can be shortened to 2 months using a 4-drug regimen. On occasion, patients who are being evaluated for pulmonary tuberculosis will be found to have positive AFB smears but negative cultures. It is important to consider the possibilities that the acid-fast organisms are nontuberculous and difficult to culture, that they are nonviable tubercle bacilli, and that the patient has another disease. Individualized on the basis of clinical and radiographic findings. If suspicion of tuberculosis is high and the patient has positive AFB smears, treatment should be started using one of the recommended regimens.

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8.5. Radiographic Evidence of Prior Tuberculosis: Inactive Tuberculosis

Persons with a positive tuberculin PPD skin test who have radiographic findings consistent with prior pulmonary tuberculosis but who do not have evidence of active tuberculosis (2--4). The radiographic findings that constitute evidence of prior tuberculosis are apical opacities, calcified hilar lymph nodes, and pleural thickening (3). The prevalence of radiographic abnormalities (3) in persons with prior tuberculosis was about 2.5 times those of persons infected with *M. tuberculosis* who did not have chest radiographic abnormalities (3). Persons with radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis (3) are not at increased risk for tuberculosis compared with persons without radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis. Patients should not be classified as having radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis if another disease is found to account for the radiographic findings. Patients should not be classified as having radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis if another disease is found to account for the radiographic findings, and unless there are previous radiographs showing that the abnormality has not changed, it is recommended that patients with radiographic evidence of prior tuberculosis be followed up clinically and radiographically to exclude the possibility of active tuberculosis. Once active tuberculosis has been excluded by sputum culture, these persons are high-priority candidates for treatment. The optimum treatment for patients with latent tuberculosis infection and abnormal chest radiographs consistent with prior tuberculosis is 3, 6, and 12 months of INH in preventing active tuberculosis for persons with latent tuberculosis. Among those receiving INH for at least 6 months, the incidence of tuberculosis was significantly reduced compared with those not receiving INH. The incidence of tuberculosis given for 12 months was significantly better than 6 months (89 versus 67% reduction). A reanalysis of data from a community-based study showed that the efficacy of INH decreased significantly if less than 9 months of the drug was taken, but that further protective effect was seen with 12 months of treatment. Guidelines for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection recommend 9 months of INH for persons with abnormal chest radiographs (3), 4 months of INH for persons without INH for 4 months, and RIF and PZA for 2 months (for persons who are unlikely to complete a longer course and who are unlikely to be followed up). A study comparing RIF with INH alone in treating this category of patient showed that 4 months of INH and RIF was cost saving compared with 9 months of INH (7).

Instances of severe and fatal liver disease have been reported in patients taking RIF and PZA for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection. The incidence of severe liver disease was significantly higher in patients taking RIF--PZA than with INH alone (7.7% Grade 3 or 4 hepatotoxicity with RIF--PZA compared with 1% for INH; $p = 0.001$) (9). Guidelines for treatment of latent tuberculosis infection recommend 9 months of INH for persons with abnormal chest radiographs (3), 4 months of INH for persons without INH for 4 months, and RIF and PZA for 2 months (for persons who are unlikely to complete a longer course and who are unlikely to be followed up). A study comparing RIF with INH alone in treating this category of patient showed that 4 months of INH and RIF was cost saving compared with 9 months of INH (7).

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8.6. Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

Untreated tuberculosis represents a far greater hazard to a pregnant woman and her fetus than does treatment of the disease. Isoniazid (INH) is the drug of choice for treatment of tuberculosis in pregnant women without tuberculosis and, rarely, the infant may acquire congenital tuberculosis (1--3). Thus, treatment of a pregnant woman with tuberculosis is moderate to high. The initial treatment regimen should consist of INH, RIF, and EMB. SM should *not* be substituted for EMB. PZA (4), SM, and IUATLD (5), the drug has not been recommended for general use in pregnant women in the United States because of insufficient data. However, some studies have used PZA in pregnant women without reported adverse events (1). If PZA is not included in the initial treatment regimen, INH should be used in pregnant women who are receiving INH.

INH, RIF, and EMB cross the placenta, but none has been shown to have teratogenic effects (6). SM, the only antituberculosis drug that is not cleared by the ear and may cause congenital deafness. In 40 pregnancies among women being treated with SM, 17% of the babies had congenital deafness. Kanamycin, amikacin, and capreomycin presumably share this toxic potential; however, there is little specific information or was no indication of teratogenicity among babies whose mothers had received these two drugs (2). There are not enough data to indicate teratogenic effects attributed to ethionamide (8). The fluoroquinolones have been associated with arthropathies in young animals. In general, administration of antituberculosis drugs is not an indication for termination of pregnancy (2). However, in women with tuberculosis, treatment should be provided because of the known and unknown risks of the second-line agents.

Breastfeeding should not be discouraged for women being treated with first-line agents, because the small concentrations of these drugs in breast milk should not be considered to serve as effective treatment for active tuberculosis or latent tuberculosis infection (1). INH. The administration of the fluoroquinolones during breastfeeding is not recommended, although, as of 1998, there have been no reports of adverse effects.

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8.7. Renal Insufficiency and End-stage Renal Disease

Renal insufficiency complicates the management of tuberculosis because some antituberculosis medications are cleared by the kidneys. Thus, some alteration in dosing antituberculosis medications is commonly necessary in patients with renal insufficiency. Decreasing the dose of selected antituberculosis drugs may not be the best method of treating tuberculosis because, although decreasing the dose of the antituberculosis agent, increasing the dosing interval is recommended (1). The general approach is to use drugs that are cleared by the kidneys to patients having a creatinine clearance of less than 30 ml/minute and those receiving hemodialysis (Peloquin, personal communication). There are insufficient data to guide dosing recommendations for patients having a reduced renal function, but measurement of serum concentrations should be considered to avoid toxicity.

RIF and INH are metabolized by the liver, so conventional dosing may be used in the setting of renal insufficiency (1--5). PZA (6) may accumulate in patients with renal insufficiency (3,6). EMB is about 80% cleared by the kidneys and may accumulate in patients with renal insufficiency. Weekly administration is recommended for PZA and EMB (3,7). INH, EMB, and PZA (as well as its metabolites) are cleared to a significant degree (3). RIF is not cleared by hemodialysis because of its high molecular weight, wide distribution into tissues, and low protein binding. Dosing is not necessary for INH, RIF, or EMB. If PZA is given after hemodialysis, supplemental dosing is not required. In general, treatment should be provided during hemodialysis, and to facilitate DOT.

Doses of streptomycin, kanamycin, amikacin, and capreomycin must be adjusted in patients with renal failure because the kidneys are the primary route of elimination.

hemodialysis when these drugs are given just before hemodialysis (8). Far less drug is likely to be removed once the drugs have been administered than is anticipated. As with EMB and PZA, the dosing interval should be increased. In general, the dose should not be reduced because to reduce drug efficacy. Ethionamide is not cleared by the kidneys, nor is the drug removed with hemodialysis, so no dose adjustment is necessary. Acetyl-PAS, is substantially removed by hemodialysis; twice daily dosing (4 g) should be adequate if the granule formulation is cleared by hemodialysis (56%). Thus, an increase in the dosing interval is necessary to avoid accumulation between hemodialysis sessions. Fluoroquinolones undergo some degree of renal clearance that varies from drug to drug. For example, levofloxacin undergoes renal clearance. Dosing recommendations for end-stage renal disease provided by the manufacturers were developed for treating pyogenic bacterial infections in patients with end-stage renal disease.

As noted above, administration of all antituberculosis drugs immediately after hemodialysis will facilitate DOT (three times weekly) in persons with renal insufficiency who are taking cycloserine, EMB, or any of the injectable agents to minimize toxicity. Patients with end-stage renal disease may have additional clinical conditions, such as diabetes mellitus with gastroparesis, other medical conditions, and medications that interact with these drugs. Under these circumstances a careful clinical and pharmacologic assessment is necessary to determine the optimum dose of the antituberculosis drugs (9). Finally, data currently do not exist for patients receiving peritoneal dialysis, it cannot be assumed that all of the recommendations in [Table 15](#) will apply to peritoneal dialysis. Such patients should be treated with antituberculosis drugs.

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8.8. Hepatic Disease

The treatment of tuberculosis in patients with unstable or advanced liver disease is problematic for several reasons. First, the risk of liver disease in patients with marginal hepatic reserve are potentially serious, even life-threatening. Finally, fluctuations in the level of liver enzymes may confound monitoring for drug-induced hepatitis. Thus, clinicians may consider regimens with fewer potentially hepatotoxic drugs as more advisable in treating such patients. It should be noted that tuberculosis itself may involve the liver, causing abnormal liver function tests that are not caused by tuberculosis. The hepatic abnormalities caused by tuberculosis will improve with effective treatment.

Possible treatment regimens in the setting of liver disease include the following.

8.8.1. Treatment without INH

As described in Section 5.2, Alternative Regimens, analysis of data from several studies conducted by the BMRC in patients with tuberculosis despite in vitro resistance to INH so long as the initial phase contained four drugs and RIF was used throughout the 6 months (2). Thus, it is reasonable to employ an initial phase of 4 drugs (Rating BII). Although this regimen has two potentially hepatotoxic medications, it has the advantage of retaining the 6-month regimen.

8.8.2. Treatment without PZA

Although the frequency of PZA-induced hepatitis is slightly less than occurs with INH or RIF, the liver injury induced by the initial phase of INH, RIF, and EMB for 2 months followed by a continuation phase of INH and RIF for 7 months, for a total of 9 months, is not negligible.

8.8.3. Regimens with only one potentially hepatotoxic drug

For patients with advanced liver disease, a regimen with only one potential hepatotoxic drug might be selected. Generally, RIF, cycloserine, and injectable agents. The duration of treatment with such regimens should be 12-18 months, depending on the severity of liver disease.

8.8.4. Regimens with no potentially hepatotoxic drugs

In the setting of severe unstable liver disease, a regimen with no hepatotoxic agents might be necessary. Such a regimen might be selected. The duration of treatment with such regimens should be 12-18 months, depending on the severity of liver disease. Consultation should always be obtained before embarking on such a treatment plan.

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8.9. Other Associated Disorders

Tuberculosis commonly occurs in association with other diseases or conditions. An associated disorder may alter immune response or occurs frequently in the same social and cultural milieu as tuberculosis. Examples of the former class of disorders include HIV, chronic renal failure, poorly controlled, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, and malnutrition. Silicosis, by impairing pulmonary function. The latter group of disorders includes chronic alcoholism and its secondary effects, other substance abuse, and psychiatric illness. The outcome of therapy (discussed in Section 2: Organization and Supervision of Treatment). The response of immunocompromised patients to immunity, although in patients with HIV infection the response to treatment is not impaired. Nevertheless, therapeutic decisions should take into account the severity of tuberculosis and the response to treatment. When possible, steps should be taken to correct the immune deficiency; if the continuation phase is extended for at least 2 months (1,2).

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9. Management of Relapse, Treatment Failure, and Drug Resistance

9.1. Relapse

Relapse refers to the circumstance in which a patient becomes and remains culture-negative while receiving antituberculosis therapy and then experiences clinical or radiographic deterioration consistent with active tuberculosis. In such patients vigorous efforts should be made to enable testing for drug resistance. True relapses are due to failure of chemotherapy to sterilize the host tissues, thereby enabling exogenous reinfection with a new strain of *M. tuberculosis* may be responsible for the apparent relapse (1).

Patients who are most likely to have true relapses are those with extensive tuberculosis whose sputum cultures remain positive after completion of therapy. In nearly all patients with tuberculosis caused by drug-susceptible organisms who were treated with rifampin. However, in patients who received self-administered therapy or a nonrifamycin regimen and who have a relapse, the risk of relapse is high. If performed and the patient fails or relapses with a rifamycin-containing regimen given by DOT, there is a high likelihood that the relapse is due to drug resistance. Among patients who received self-administered therapy, the risk of erratic drug administration leading to relapse with resistant organisms is high. Regimens for patients with relapses should be based on the prior treatment scheme. For patients with tuberculosis that was caused by drug-resistant organisms, retreatment using the standard four-drug initial phase regimen may be appropriate, at least until the results of susceptibility testing are available. In the past, it is prudent to infer a higher risk of acquired drug resistance and begin an expanded regimen (see below) in patients with relapse, central nervous system involvement, or other life-threatening circumstances, that is, cases in which treatment failure is suspected. For the relatively few patients in whom epidemiologic circumstances provide a strong suspicion of exogenous reinfection as the cause of relapse, the pattern of the presumed source case. If the presumed source case is known to have tuberculosis caused by drug-susceptible organisms, the likely source case is known to have drug-resistant organisms, an empirically expanded regimen based on the resistance profile of the source case. There are no clinical trials to guide the choice of agents to include in expanded empirical regimens for presumed drug-resistant tuberculosis. Usual agents would include EMB, rifampin, and PZA plus an additional three agents, based on the probability of in vitro susceptibility. Usual agents would include EMB, rifampin, and PZA plus an additional three agents, based on the probability of in vitro susceptibility. Usual agents would include EMB, rifampin, and PZA plus an additional three agents, based on the probability of in vitro susceptibility.

9.2. Treatment Failure

Treatment failure is defined as continued or recurrently positive cultures in a patient receiving appropriate chemotherapy. At least 90--95% will be culture-negative after 3 months of treatment with a regimen that contains INH and RIF. During this time the patient should gain weight. Thus, patients with persistently positive cultures after 3 months of chemotherapy, with or without on-going weight gain. Patients whose sputum cultures remain positive after 4 months of treatment are considered to have failed treatment.

There are multiple potential reasons for treatment failure. If the patient is not receiving DOT, the most likely explanation for treatment failure is nonadherence (spitting out or deliberately regurgitating pills) or failure of the health care system to reliably deliver therapy. (Was initial drug-susceptibility testing done? Was it reported accurately?), malabsorption (prior resectional surgery of the stomach), or a condition that might bind or interfere with drug absorption (see Section 6.1: Drug Administration, and Section 7.1: Interactions Affecting Drug Absorption). In "normal" patients may experience very protracted disease including persistently positive cultures or prolonged symptoms in the absence of radiographic abnormalities. This is considered as a possible reason for a positive culture in a patient who is doing well. Recent reports document cross contamination (7,8).

Clinicians should be alert, as well, to the possibility of transient clinical or radiographic worsening (paradoxical reactions), deterioration of lung function, inflammation at sites of lymphadenitis, worsened abnormalities on chest radiographs after several months of treatment, or the occurrence of paradoxical worsening during treatment occurs more commonly but not exclusively in persons with HIV infection (12--14) (15). For patients who meet criteria for treatment failure, the possible reasons listed above should be addressed promptly. If clinical judgment indicates that consultation with a specialty center is indicated. If treatment failure is presumed to be due to drug resistance and the patient cannot be managed with first-line drugs, wait for drug susceptibility results from a recent isolate. If the patient is seriously ill or has a positive sputum AFB smear, an expanded regimen should be continued until susceptibility tests are available to guide therapy. For patients who have failed treatment, mycobacterial isolates should be tested for drug resistance. Second-line drugs should be used.

A fundamental principle in managing patients who have failed treatment is that a single new drug should never be added to a

generally prudent to add at least three new drugs to which susceptibility could logically be inferred to lessen the probability of an empirical regimen; however, expert opinion indicates that empirical retreatment regimens might include a fluoroquinolone (if the patient was susceptible initially), amikacin, kanamycin, or capreomycin, and an oral agent such as PAS, cycloserine, or ethionamide according to the results.

9.3. Management of Tuberculosis Caused by Drug-Resistant Organisms

Tubercle bacilli are continually undergoing spontaneous mutations that create resistance to individual antituberculosis drugs. A combination chemotherapy that is reliably ingested, clinically significant resistance will not develop (see Section 4.1: Combination chemotherapy). When there is a large bacillary population, such as in pulmonary cavities, when an inadequate drug regimen is prescribed (inadequate adherence by the provider to ensure that an adequate regimen is taken (16). Rarely, malabsorption of one or more antituberculosis drugs may occur in pulmonary tuberculosis because of the immense number of rapidly multiplying bacilli in the cavity(ies) (17). During extended treatment, resistance may transmit their strains to others who, if they develop tuberculosis, will have primary drug resistance.

Drug resistance in a patient with newly diagnosed tuberculosis may be suspected on the basis of historical (previous treatment in region in which drug resistance is common) (18,19). In such situations it is prudent to employ an empirically expanded regimen. Resistance can be proven only by drug-susceptibility testing performed in a competent laboratory (Table 17). The steps taken when resistance to *M. tuberculosis* resistant to both INH and RIF (MDR) are at high risk for treatment failure and further acquired resistance; they are at high risk for relapse. Patients with strains resistant to RIF alone have a better prognosis than MDR cases, but also are at increased risk for relapse.

Definitive randomized or controlled studies have not been performed among patients with the various patterns of drug resistance. The WHO and IUATLD have formulated standard algorithmic regimens listed below, as well as on expert opinion (20,21). This approach is best suited to regions without in vitro susceptibility testing facilities and industrialized nations with more ample resources (22,23).

Guidelines for management of patients with tuberculosis caused by drug-resistant organisms are based on the following guidelines:

- A single new drug should never be added to a failing regimen.
- When initiating or revising therapy, always attempt to employ at least three previously unused drugs to which there is no known resistance.
- Do not limit the regimen to three agents if other previously unused drugs that are likely to be active are available. In patients with MDR tuberculosis, regimens employing four to six medications appear to be associated with better results (24--26).
- Patients should receive either hospital-based or domiciliary DOT. The implications of treatment failure and further relapse are significant.
- Intermittent therapy should not be used in treating tuberculosis caused by drug-resistant organisms, except perhaps in patients with low-level resistance.
- The use of drugs to which there is demonstrated in vitro resistance is not encouraged because there is little or no evidence of clinical effectiveness. However, the clinical significance and effectiveness of the use of INH in the setting of low-level INH resistance is not clear. Better survival rates in patients with the strain-W variety of MDR *M. tuberculosis* that was susceptible to higher concentrations of INH have been reported.
- Resistance to RIF is associated in nearly all instances with cross-resistance to rifabutin and rifapentine (28). Rare mutations of the RNA-polymerase locus in the bacillus (29). However, unless in vitro susceptibility to rifabutin is demonstrated, rifapentine should not be used. Cross-resistance between RIF and rifapentine appears almost universal (28).
- There is no cross-resistance between SM and the other injectable agents: amikacin, kanamycin, and capreomycin (a combination of amikacin and kanamycin is universal (24). Simultaneous use of two injectable agents is not recommended due to the risk of toxicity.
- Determination of resistance to PZA is technically problematic and, thus, is not made in many laboratories. However, if monoresistance to PZA is observed, consideration must be given to the possibility that the etiologic agent is *M. bovis*. Resistance to PZA in *M. tuberculosis* by nucleic acid hybridization--probe assays that are commonly used for identification).

Table 16 contains regimens suggested for use in patients with various patterns of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

9.4. Role of Surgery in MDR Tuberculosis

The role of resectional surgery in the management of patients with extensive pulmonary MDR tuberculosis has not been established. Patients with extensive disease (having resistance to more than 5 drugs) appeared to benefit from the resection of cavitary or badly damaged lung tissue when compared with medical therapy. Patients with drug resistance having similar cure rates without surgery (25,32). The disparity in these reports may be due to long-standing disease, to the extent of disease, or to the skill of the surgeon. Surgery performed by an experienced surgeon after the patient has received several months of intensive chemotherapy. Even with successful medical therapy, patients with demonstrated susceptibility, should be given.

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9.5 Laboratory Considerations in Determining Drug Resistance

Susceptibility testing of *M. tuberculosis* is critical for appropriate patient management and should be performed on an initial isolate. Public health laboratories routinely will perform susceptibility testing on initial isolates but, often, private laboratories do not perform such testing unless specifically requested. Testing should be repeated if the patient still has a positive culture result after 3 months of therapy or again develops positive culture using a standard methodology, such as that recommended by the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (3). This document was published by the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards in 2000 (3).

Susceptibility of *M. tuberculosis* is determined by evaluating the ability of an isolate to grow on agar or in broth containing a drug. The reference method for all antituberculosis drugs except pyrazinamide, in which case the BACTEC broth-based methodology is used, is to compare the number of colonies on the drug-containing plate that is more than 1% of the growth on the non-drug-containing plate (4). Because the agar method is used for testing *M. tuberculosis* isolates to first-line antituberculosis drugs, susceptibility testing can be performed using more rapid broth-based methods (e.g., BACTEC) for first-line drugs available within 28 days of receipt of a clinical specimen (5). The critical concentrations recommended by the Na

concentrations for broth-based testing methods are shown in [Table 17](#) (2,3).

The National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards recommends that susceptibility testing be performed for INH (two initial *M. tuberculosis* isolates). Pyrazinamide testing may be done if there is a sufficiently high prevalence of PZA resistance there is resistance to RIF alone or to two or more drugs. Testing of second-line drugs is performed using the agar proportion are capreomycin, ethionamide, kanamycin (which also predicts amikacin susceptibility), ofloxacin (used to assess fluoroquinolone susceptibility). Testing of EMB is also recommended. Susceptibility testing for cycloserine is not recommended because of the technical problems associated with it.

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10. Treatment Of Tuberculosis in Low-Income Countries: Recommendations and Guidelines of the WHO

This brief summary of the differences between the recommendations for treatment of tuberculosis in high-income, low-incidence countries and the recommendations for treatment of tuberculosis in low-income, high-incidence countries. As tuberculosis in low-incidence countries, such as the United States, becomes more prevalent, care providers in low-incidence countries have an understanding of the differences in the approaches used and the reasons for these differences (1). As noted at the outset of this document, the ATS/CDC/IDSA recommendations cannot be assumed to be applicable to all countries because the nature of tuberculosis and the resources with which to confront it to an important extent determine the approaches used.

A number of differences exist between these new ATS/CDC/IDSA recommendations, and the current tuberculosis treatment recommendations. Rather than being recommendations per se, the IUATLD document presents a distillation of IUATLD practice, validated in tuberculosis treatment facilities. Mycobacterial culture and susceptibility testing and radiographic examinations are not widely available. These organizations have developed a Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) course in which direct observation of therapy ("DOT" in the current statement) is only one of five key elements (4). The following are selected important differences among the recommendations are summarized below. Some of the differences arise from variations in practice, while others, such as the use of weekly regimens, arise from different interpretations of common elements, for example, whether DOT is used throughout the course.

10.1. Microbiological Tests for Diagnosis and Evaluation of Response

The WHO and the IUATLD recommend diagnosis and classification of cases and assessment of response based on sputum smear microscopy in many countries. In addition, the AFB smear identifies patients who are most likely to transmit the organism. Susceptibility testing is recommended by the WHO for patients who fail (sputum smear--positive in more than two consecutive sputum smears). However, susceptibility testing is recommended by the WHO for patients who fail (sputum smear--positive in more than two consecutive sputum smears).

those who fail a supervised retreatment regimen. Regarding follow-up, it is recommended by the WHO and the IUATLD that patients be followed up at completion of treatment (either 6 or 8 months). The IUATLD recommends that for patients who have positive smears

10.2. Use of Chest Radiographs in Diagnosis and Follow-Up of Patients Being Treated

In many parts of the world radiographs are not readily available. Moreover, because the highest priority for treatment is the bacteriologic findings, the use of radiographic findings alone is an inefficient use of resources. Thus, chest radiography is recommended by both the WHO and the IUATLD for follow-up.

10.3. Initial Treatment Regimens

The WHO recommends a single initial phase of daily INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB (or SM) for 2 months followed by a continuation phase of daily INH and EMB for 6 months (self-administered). The WHO specifically discourages programs from using twice weekly treatment. The IUATLD recommends a 2-month initial phase of INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB given by DOT, followed by a 6-month continuation phase of INH and EMB in place of thioacetazone. The IUATLD also recommends a 12-month regimen with a 2-month initial phase of daily INH and thioacetazone. This regimen is intended to be used for patients who have negative smears or when the 8-month regimen is not feasible. The rationale for the 8-month regimen recommendation is that it is felt that RIF should always be given by DOT; yet, many patients do not take their treatment. The 8-month regimen is less efficacious in patients with drug-susceptible tuberculosis, but use of this regimen will reduce the cost of the 8-month regimen's continuation phase of INH and EMB costs about 27% less than a 4-month continuation phase of daily INH and EMB.

10.4. Approach to Previously Treated Patients

The WHO and the IUATLD recommend a standardized regimen for patients who have relapsed, had interrupted treatment, or were lost to follow-up (as defined at the WHO.) The regimen consists of an initial phase of INH, RIF, PZA, EMB, and SM given daily for 2 months and then 1 month of INH, RIF, and EMB.

Patients who have failed supervised retreatment are considered "chronic" cases and are highly likely to have tuberculosis caused by multidrug-resistant organisms. Based on the test results are recommended by the WHO, if testing and second-line drugs are available (5). The IUATLD recommends a 2-month initial phase of INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB given by DOT, followed by a 6-month continuation phase of INH and EMB. The issue of chronic cases is an area of considerable controversy (6). In countries with sufficient resources, such as the United States, the WHO recommends a 2-month initial phase of INH, RIF, PZA, EMB, and SM given daily for 2 months and then 1 month of INH, RIF, and EMB. Nevertheless, at least one group has demonstrated that in a high-incidence, low-income country (Peru) treatment with individual drugs is more effective than the standardized regimen.

10.5. Monitoring of Outcomes of Therapy

Both the WHO and the IUATLD recommend a formal system for monitoring outcomes of treatment that classifies all cases into categories (e.g., cured, failed, transferred out). The assessment of cure is based on clinical response and on sputum AFB smear (or culture when available) and the identification of programmatic shortcomings.

10.6. Recommended Doses of Antituberculosis Drugs

The WHO recommends 10 mg/kg as the dose for three times weekly INH, whereas the ATS/CDC/IDSA recommend 15 mg/kg (up to a maximum of 300 mg/day), but the ATS/CDC/IDSA recommend a higher dose for children (10--15 mg/kg per day), based on the number of pills required for three weight ranges resulting in a dose of about 5 mg/kg up to 300 mg/day.

The clinical trials of the BMRC that established the efficacy of three times weekly regimens all used an INH dose of 15 mg/kg. The IUATLD (with assistance from global experts), and was chosen to maintain the weekly amount of INH approximately equal to that used in the BMRC trials.

10.7. Drugs/Preparations Not Available in the United States

Thioacetazone, which formerly was commonly used, is still available in most parts of the world, but is used less frequently. It is not a component of the recommended IUATLD first-line regimen. Combination preparations not available in the United States but available elsewhere include thioacetazone (50 mg); and INH (75 mg), RIF (150 mg), PZA (400 mg), and EMB (275 mg). The IUATLD recommends using individual drugs.

10.8. Treating Pregnant Women

Both the WHO and the IUATLD include PZA in the regimen for treating pregnant women, in the absence of data indicating otherwise.

10.9. Management of Common Adverse Reactions

Neither baseline nor follow-up testing is recommended by the WHO and the IUATLD. It is recommended that patients be treated with the recommended regimen.

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11. Research Agenda for Tuberculosis Treatment

11.1. New Antituberculosis Drugs

New antituberculosis drugs are needed for three reasons: to shorten or otherwise simplify treatment of tuberculosis caused by *M. tuberculosis* (1), to provide more effective and efficient treatment of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) (1). Although treatment regimens for drug-resistant tuberculosis exist to achieve optimal results. Nonadherence to this relatively lengthy course of treatment remains a major problem. To address this, a new standard of care worldwide. However, the administrative and financial burden of providing DOT for all patients is considerable. New drugs are drugs that could enable effective treatment to be given at dosing intervals of 1 week or more.

Rates of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis are alarmingly high in several countries (2), and even in countries, such as the United States, where it is a difficult treatment problem (see Section 9: Management of Relapse, Treatment Failure, and Drug Resistance). Current treatment regimens are more expensive than those used for standard treatment. Moreover, these treatment regimens often have to be given for 18--24 months. To solve the problem of drug resistance, their judicious use would greatly improve the treatment for many patients.

Finally, the United States and several other low-incidence countries have embarked on plans to eliminate tuberculosis. An important goal is to treat LTBI who are at high risk of developing tuberculosis (3). In the United States the most commonly used LTBI treatment regimen is 9 months of isoniazid (INH) and rifampin (RIF). A major limitation on its effectiveness. A shorter LTBI treatment regimen with RIF and PZA appears to be effective, but reports have been mixed. Effective "short-course" LTBI treatment are a major need.

No truly novel compounds that are likely to have a significant impact on tuberculosis treatment are presently available for clinical evaluation. Investigation of regimens and investigate the role of newer fluoroquinolones in the treatment of drug-susceptible tuberculosis is warranted. A study in HIV-negative patients with noncavitary pulmonary tuberculosis who have negative sputum smears at completion of 2 months of treatment by experimental studies: increasing the rifapentine dosage (5), and adding moxifloxacin as a companion drug to provide better results (6). Other data from a clinical trial of ofloxacin suggest that fluoroquinolones have the potential to significantly shorten the course of *tuberculosis*, moxifloxacin appears to be the most promising.

Other compounds that might become available for clinical evaluation in the future include the nitroimidazopyrans that are being investigated; oxazolidinones such as linezolid; and drugs that target isocitrate lyase, an enzyme that may be necessary for the growth of *M. tuberculosis*. Bactericidal activity comparable to that of INH and appears to act as well on bacilli maintained in an anaerobic environment. Although linezolid, a drug that is marketed for the treatment of selected acute bacterial infections, does have demonstrated activity against *M. tuberculosis*, it is not clear whether it will be effective in the treatment of tuberculosis.

treatment of tuberculosis (10).

11.2. Other Interventions To Improve the Efficacy of Treatment

A number of other approaches have been suggested that might lead to improved treatment outcome, including alternative drug regimens. Experimental studies have demonstrated that effective serum concentrations of INH and PZA can be provided through inhaled formulations (11). However, there has been little apparent commercial interest in pursuing this approach. Liposomal encapsulation of anti-tubercular drugs (i.e., the macrophage) providing for more effective and better tolerated therapy, as well as for more widely spaced treatment requirements, minimize toxicity, and deliver drug to infected alveolar macrophages. Although experimental studies have suggested (11,12).

Because of possible detrimental effects of the cytokine, tumor necrosis factor- α , in HIV-associated tuberculosis, there has been interest in TNF- α production. Studies have shown that administration of thalidomide improves weight gain in both HIV-positive and HIV-negative patients with tuberculosis (14). However, the potential side effects of these drugs and the use of "protective" cytokines, such as aerosolized interferon- γ and subcutaneous interleukin-2, that have shown activity as adjuncts to chemotherapy, immunomodulation, the use of heat-killed preparations of *M. vaccae* as a therapeutic vaccine, has not shown clinically significant activity (15). It continues to be of interest in this approach, especially for patients with advanced drug-resistant tuberculosis. Other vaccines that have been tested in experimental studies (18). Finally, a study suggested that the administration of Vitamin A and zinc to patients with pulmonary tuberculosis and chest radiographs (19). Further assessment of nutritional supplements in tuberculosis treatment may be indicated.

11.2.1. Better methods to identify and manage high- and low-risk patients

As noted above, sputum culture positivity at 2 months appears to be a marker for an increased risk of relapse for patients with tuberculosis. A test with greater sensitivity and specificity for a poor outcome could better select high risk patients for more intensive or longer therapy. A test that has shown promise and deserve further evaluation (20). Conversely, markers that reliably identify patients at lower risk of relapse after treatment. Whether or not low-risk patients can be treated with shorter regimens using currently available drugs is a topic of ongoing research.

11.2.2. Health services research to facilitate treatment administration and improve treatment outcome

Although DOT (as a component of DOTS) is widely advocated as a universal standard of care for tuberculosis treatment, many programs have achieved excellent results by targeting DOT to patients known or suspected of being at increased risk of default. Finally, although limited work has been done in the area of behavioral studies of tuberculosis patients and providers, an approach to DOT has been revisited (21).

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Acknowledgment

The Committee thanks Elisha Malanga of the American Thoracic Society for excellent administrative support. The Committee also thanks the National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, CDC, for their thorough review and helpful comments. The Committee also thanks the following individuals for their contributions: James Holcombe, M.P.P.A., James Lamberti, M.D., Evelyn Lancaster, R.N., Kathleen Moser, M.D., M.P.H., James McDaniel, M.D., M.P.H., Jon Tillinghast, M.D., M.P.H., Victor Tomlinson, Jr., M.D., and Charles Wallace, Ph.D.

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Table 1

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Figure 1

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