

Gler, MS, Orillaza-Chi, RB, Macalintal, LE, Raymond, LO, Maramba, EK, Quelapio, MD, Tupasi, TE, “Bacteriological screening results of chronic TB symptomatic in Makati, Philippines,” *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, Vol. 11, No. 11, (November) 2007, Supplement 1: S112.

Objective: To describe the challenges in the timely diagnosis and treatment of MDR-TB.

Materials and methods: This descriptive study of 1617 MDR-TB suspects analyzes time from first consultation to diagnosis and treatment.

Results: There were 1204 (74%) with positive smears and 1112 (69%) with culture isolation. Of the 1617 suspects screened, 938 (58%) were MDR-TB, 14 (0.9%) were XDR, 64 (4%) were drug resistant and 50 (3%) were susceptible cases. The rest had non-tuberculous mycobacteria (54) or negative cultures (451). From 51% to 57% of confirmed MDR-TB cases were enrolled in treatment; 186 (20%) are still awaiting treatment. The time from first contact with our clinic to MDR-TB diagnosis decreased from 8.5 + 3.8 months in 2003 to 4.9 + 0.9 months in 2006. However, the waiting time from first contact to treatment remained long ranging from 6.7 + 3.3 months to 10.6 + 5.6 months across four years. Prior to treatment deaths occurred in 133 (14%), early default in 164 (17%) due to loss and refusal to treat in 43 (5%).

Conclusion: Rapid and direct test for MDR-TB detection is imperative and challenges in drug procurement and absorptive capacity need to be addressed for timely diagnosis and treatment to prevent deaths, early default, and transmission from these infectious cases.

Table 1

Chronic TB symptomatic screened	1617	
Sputum smear positive	1204	74%
Sputum culture positive (MTB)	1112	69%
MDR-TB confirmed	938	58%
XDR – TB confirmed	14	0.9%
DR-TB other than MDR-TB	64	4%
Pansusceptible	50	3%

MOTT	54	3%
Negative	451	28%

Table 2 Outcome of MDR-TB confirmed cases from January 2003 to October 2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006	Total
MDR/XDR-TB confirmed	121	235	290	306	952
Time to diagnosis, months	8.5 ± 3.8	5.4 ± 2.1	5.0 ± 2.3	4.9 ± 0.9	
Time to start treatment, months	10.6 ± 5.6	6.9 ± 3.9	6.7 ± 3.3	7.5 ± 0.5	
Enrolled, <i>n</i> (%)	71 (57)	119 (51)	161 (56)	79 (25)	430 (45)
Died while waiting, <i>n</i> (%)	20 (17)	49 (21)	38 (13)	29 (9)	136 (14)
Early default (refused, treated by others), <i>n</i> (%)	5 (4)	18 (8)	19 (7)	1 (0)	43 (5)
Lost, <i>n</i> (%)	31 (26)	51 (22)	72 (25)	10 (3)	161 (17)
Improved, <i>n</i> (%)		1 (0.4)	1 (0.3)		2 (0.2)
Waiting, <i>n</i> (%)				186 (61)	186 (20)