Research Article



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Rifampicin Bioavailability in Fixed-Dose Combinations for Tuberculosis Treatment: Evidence and Policy Actions

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Abstract

Purpose: The pharmacokinetics (PK) of anti-tuberculosis drugs, including their bioavailability (BA), significantly impacts the efficacy and effectiveness of tuberculosis (TB) treatment regimens. Rifampicin, one of the most important drugs in the treatment of drug-sensitive tuberculosis, has been used increasingly in fixed-dose combinations (FDCs). This paper reviews and analyzes available data on BA and PK of rifampicin with a focus on FDCs, from published studies and reports.

Methods: Using PubMed as the primary database, Cochrane and other relevant databases, a systematic review of literature was conducted to identify studies on the bioavailability and efficacy of rifampicin in FDCs versus single drug formulations. A number of keywords including "bioavailability", "rifampicin", "fixed dose combinations", and "pharmacokinetics" were used in various combinations. The search covered the period 1980 to 2016. Priority was given to articles on rifampicin bioavailability in fixed dose combinations used in the program setting, and human studies that used the World Health Organization (WHO) approved BA/PK protocol and sample size (≥22 patients).

Findings: More than 450 original peer-reviewed articles, reviews and reports, were assessed for this analysis. Eleven papers, which included data from high-TB-burden countries (South Africa, India, and China), raised significant concerns about rifampicin bioavailability within FDCs; the authors of the studies discussed multiple factors associated with low bioavailability, including drug formulation and quality, storage environment, patient factors, and concomitant diseases.

Implications: Recent studies and reviews point to the problem of low bioavailability of rifampicin in fixed dose combinations. However, in the field, it remains a hidden or unrecognized factor leading to poor treatment outcomes. It is difficult to study the issue thoroughly unless there is awareness among TB program personnel of its existence, and adequate laboratory and research support is available to national tuberculosis programs (NTPs). In stemming the tide of tuberculosis multi-drug resistance (MDR) and extensive drug resistance (XDR), it is paramount to ensure that rifampicin bioavailability is adequate in FDCs, and to detect and address any deviation from recommended target ranges. There is a need for strategies to minimize the undesirable clinical effects of reduced rifampicin bioavailability in FDCs, and for effective utilization of quality-assured drugs within NTPs programs; these can help NTPs support effective case management in line with the international TB care standards, while taking into consideration the factors affecting drug absorption and therapeutic concentration.

Introduction

The emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) is a major

public health concern across the globe and particularly in tuberculosis (TB) high-burden countries. There are alarming reports of increasing drug resistance from various parts of the world which potentially threaten to disrupt the gains achieved in tuberculosis (TB) control over the last decade¹ and global progress towards achieving the targets of the End TB strategy. In 2017, there were 558,000 new TB cases with resistance to rifampicin, the most effective first-line drug, of which 82% had multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB)². Rifampicin resistant TB (RR-TB) is defined as resistance to rifampicin detected using genotypic or phenotypic methods with or without resistance to other first-line anti-TB drugs. MDR-TB is essentially a man-made phenomenon and arises due to inadequate treatment of drug-sensitive TB (DS-TB)³. The prevalence of MDR-TB mirrors the functional state and efficacy of tuberculosis control programs in the country.

The pharmacokinetics (PK) of anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) drugs, including their bioavailability (BA), have a significant impact on the effectiveness of TB treatment regimens, which are complex and consist of at least four initial drugs. Rifampicin (Rifampin, USP) remains one of the most important drugs in the treatment of drug-sensitive tuberculosis and has been used increasingly in fixed-dose combinations (FDCs)⁴. The World Health Organization (WHO) and International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD)⁵ recommend FDCs because they improve patient adherence, simplify prescribing and management of drug supplies, and reduce prescription errors. The objective of this paper is to review and analyze the available data on BA and PK of rifampicin from published studies and reports, with a focus on FDCs. Based on these analyses, possible strategies are discussed for minimizing undesirable clinical effects of reduced bioavailability of rifampicin in FDCs and for effective utilization of qualityassured drugs within National Tuberculosis Programs (NTP).

Methods

A literature search was conducted using PubMed (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/) as the primary database, for articles related to the bioavailability of rifampicin and FDCs. The Cochrane Library, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, and related reports from WHO/IUATLD were also accessed. A number of keywords including "bioavailability", "rifampicin", "fixed dose combinations", and "pharmacokinetics" were used in various combinations, either as a title word or as a Medical Subject Heading (MeSH). The search covered the period from 1980 to 2016. A reference database was created in Reference Manager and imported into Mendeley software. After implementation of multiple search strategies, duplicate references / citations and those that were not relevant to the present review were

identified and removed from the database manually. The relevant full-text articles from those shortlisted (retained) in the database were accessed and reviewed using library sources and online repositories e.g. Elsevier, Wiley, Athens etc. In the review of full-text articles and original papers, priority was given to articles on rifampicin bioavailability in fixed dose combinations used in the program setting. Human studies dealing with BA/PK of rifampicin that used the WHO approved BA/PK protocol for determination of bioavailability of rifampicin in FDCs and met or exceeded the recommended sample size (\geq 22 patients), were selected preferentially⁶⁻⁷, while a limited number of studies with fewer subjects that had direct relevance to the subject of interest were also assessed. Laboratory studies, regardless of sample size, were given the next priority and reviewed for BA / PK / bioequivalence (BE) characteristics of rifampicin (and its dissolution) in FDCs.

For each of the articles / studies reviewed, the outcome measures of interest were classified into one of two categories: (a) studies that provided information on bioavailability of rifampicin in FDCs, single drug formulations, or a comparative analysis of the two types of formulation; and (b) studies that compared the efficacy and / or adverse effects of rifampicin in FDCs with rifampicin in single drug formulation. The bioequivalence of rifampicin in FDCs studied was defined as the area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) (0-24h) of 80-125% of the reference product; in most studies, the latter was the loose / single drug rifampicin formulation with the same dose.

As information was obtained from that available in the public domain, no ethical approval was considered necessary for this work.

Results

More than 450 original peer-reviewed articles, systematic reviews, and reports were assessed for this analysis. Eleven papers from a number of high-TB-burden countries, including South Africa, India, and China (Table 1), expressed significant concerns about rifampicin bioavailability, both within FDCs and as a single formulation; these are discussed below in detail. Various authors documented multiple factors associated with low bioavailability, including formulation, storage environment, drug quality, patient age, sex, and concomitant diseases. Most of the studies reviewed from the perspective of efficacy (Table 2) did not find a significant difference in the clinical efficacy or adverse effects of rifampicin in FDCs when compared to single drug formulations.

Rifampicin Bioavailability in Single Formulations versus FDCs

Table 1 provides a summary of studies which point

Country	Year	Sample Size	Study Design	Summary Results	Remarks	Source
Italy	1988 1988 1993	10 healthy volun- teers 13 TB patients 6 human volunteers	Open Crossover Daily therapy FDCC	No major PK interactions be- tween drugs in FDCs or single drug formulations	Results consistent across the three types of study populations	[8-10]
India	1999	18 healthy volun- teers	Open cross-over study	No significant difference in Rif PK: FDC vs single drug formulation	Dosage of individual drugs and FDC not as per body weight	[11]
India	2003	8 healthy volunteers	Partially balanced incomplete block, random Rif allo- cation	Reduced BA of Rif in presence of INH	Excipients in INH combination ruled out as cause of reduced BA	[12]
India	2001	6 healthy volunteers	Single dose, two treatment, two period, cross-over	28-32% reduced BA of Rif and analogues in FDC	Possibly due to reduced Rif stability with INH in gastric environment	[13]
South Africa	2018	20 healthy volun- teers	Open-label, three- way cross-over	20% reduced BA in 4-drug formulation	2-drug formulation bioequivalent	[14]
India	2004	Review study	Review of Rif BA in FDCs	High variability in Rif blood levels in FDCs	Low Rif BA mainly due to formulation / substance, rather than variable absorption	[15]
South Africa	2006	142 TB patients (138 with known formu- lation)	TB treatment cohort	Rif BA mainly affected by formulation	27% reduced BA with HIV infection	[16]
Mexico	2010	18 healthy volun- teers	Two-period, two-sequence crossover	Rif BA in reference (sin- gle-drug) formulation 4-fold higher than FDC	Rif levels below target range, high variability in FDC	[17]
China	2015	18 + 20 healthy volunteers	Two open-label, randomized 2-peri- od crossover / one 3-period crossover, respectively	For Rif, only 1 of 4 FDC formulations bioequivalent to reference, other 3 had reduced BA	3 of 4 FDC products in acceptable therapeutic range for Rif	[18]

 Table 1. Reported Differences in Rifampicin Bioavailability: FDCs versus Single Drug Formulations

Notes: FDC: Fixed Dose Combinations; PK: pharmacokinetics; Rif: rifampicin; BA: bioavailability

Table 2. Efficacy of Rifampicin in Fixed Dose Combinations versus single drug formulations

Participant or Population: Patients treated for pulmonary TB Setting: Hospitals and health centers for TB treatment Intervention: Fixed-Dose Combinations (FDC) Comparison: Single-drug formulations

Year	Outcome measure	Risk Ratio (RR)	95% CI	RCTs	N	Source
2013	Treatment failure or disease relapse (All)	1.28	0.99-1.7	13	Unknown	[19]
2013	Sub group: Patients with baseline drug sensitive tuberculosis	1.48	1.04-2.09	6	Unknown	[19]
2013	Sub group: patients receiving self-administered therapy	1.94	1.05-3.57	6	Unknown	[19]
2016	Disease relapse	1.28	1.00-1.64	10	3621	[20]
2016	Treatment failure	1.28	0.82-2.00	7	3606	[20]
2016	Acquired drug resistance	0.76	0.15-3.77	3	491	[20]
2013	Acquired drug resistance	1.60	0.5-5.4	6	2518	[20]
2016	Serious Adverse drug events	1.45	0.90-2.33	6	3388	[20]
2016	Adverse events leading to discontinuation of therapy	0.96	0.56-1.66	13	5530	[20]
2016	Sputum smear or culture conversion	0.99	0.96-1.02	7	2319	[20]
2013	Culture conversion after 2 months of treatment	1.03	1.01-1.04	12	4797	[19]
2016	Death	0.96	0.67-1.39	11	4800	[20]

Notes: CI: Confidence Interval; N: total sample size; RCT: randomized controlled trials

to reduced bioavailability of rifampicin in fixed-dose formulations. Most of the studies conducted from 1980-2000 did not show any negative effects associated with the combined use of anti-TB drugs in FDCs. Three studies by **Acocella** et al⁸⁻¹⁰ compared bioavailability of isoniazid (INH), rifampicin (RIF) and pyrazinamide in free combination or fixed-triple formulations. The number of study subjects varied from 6 to 13. No negative pharmacokinetic interactions were found when drugs were administered in fixed combinations. Similarly, in 1999, Gurumurthy et al¹¹ conducted an open cross over study with 18 healthy individuals and concluded that combining anti-tuberculosis drugs into single formulations does not change their pharmacokinetics. In 2003 Immanuel et al.¹² examined the bioavailability of rifampicin in the presence of isoniazid, ethambutol, pyrazinamide or a combination of the three drugs. This study, which included eight healthy individuals, found that isoniazid alone or in combination with ethambutol and pyrazinamide reduced the bioavailability of rifampicin. This could possibly be explained by degradation of rifampicin in the presence of isoniazid. In a similar study where FDCs were compared with rifampicin alone formulations, nearly 30% reduction in the bioavailability of rifampicin has been reported¹³. In a recent study by Court et al., the authors performed an open-label, three-way cross-over study of three licensed rifampicin-containing formulations widely used in South Africa to evaluate the bioavailability of rifampicin in a twodrug fixed-dose combination tablet (2FDC) and a four-drug FDC (4FDC) against a single-drug reference. The results of this study indicated an average 20% reduction in rifampicin bioavailability in the 4FDC, while the 2FDC/reference was bioequivalent¹⁴.

A review of eight bioequivalence studies of FDCs containing rifampicin by Agrawal et al in India in 2004 found that FDCs show higher variability in rifampicin blood levels compared to single formulations, which was mainly attributed to complexity in manufacturing FDCs containing rifampicin¹⁵. Further, this review indicated that low bioavailability of rifampicin in the products studied was mainly due to issues related to drug formulation or drug substance, rather than variability of absorption. Low rifampicin bioavailability in FDCs was found by McIlleron et al¹⁶ in a South African study in 2006. In this study, plasma concentration-time profiles of four primary TB drugs (isoniazid, rifampicin, ethambutol, pyrazinamide) were obtained in 142 patients with drug-sensitive TB at two months of daily treatment. Twenty one percent of 138 patients (with known formulation type) were on FDCs while the remaining 79% were on individual drugs. FDC formulations were found to be associated with a lower bioavailability of rifampicin compared to individual formulations. AUC $_{0-8}$ (area under the plasma concentrationtime curve in 0-8 h) reductions of 8.69 mg h/l (P = 0.001) among male patients, 8.37 mg h/l (P = 0.004) among those who received FDC products, and 8.34 mg h/l (P = 0.051) among HIV-infected individuals, respectively, were demonstrated.

In 2010 Milan-Segovia et al^{17} also found delayed absorption and markedly inferior BA of rifampicin in generic 3-drug FDCs (the test product) approved for use in Mexico compared to a single formulation (the reference product). The number of study subject was limited to 18 healthy individuals. They underwent a randomized two-treatment, two-period crossover double-blind study with a 7-day washout period between treatments. Mean pharmacokinetic parameter values obtained for the test and reference product were $3.13 \pm 2.01 \,\mu$ g/ml and $9.95 \pm 2.66 \,\mu$ g/ml respectively for peak plasma concentration (C_{max}), $15.51 \pm 9.77 \,\mu$ g.h/ml and $58.03 \pm 16.1 \,\mu$ g.h/ml for area under the concentration time curve (AUC) to the last measurable concentration (AUC_{0-12h}) and 17.92 ± 10.66 and $68.43 \pm 22.39 \,\mu$ g.h/ml for AUC up to time infinity ($AUC_{0-\infty}$). The test/reference ratio of the means (90% CI) was 25.36% (17.33-37.10) for C_{max} , 21.25% (14.61-30.89) for AUC_{0-12h} and 22.08% (15.44-31.56) for $AUC_{0-\infty}$.

A study by Zhu et al¹⁸ in China recruited two groups of healthy male volunteers (sample sizes 18 and 20) in an open-label, randomized 2 or 3-period crossover study of four FDCs (A = 4-drug combination, B, C, D = 2-drug combinations). The relative bioavailability of rifampicin in the FDCs was compared to a separate formulation of rifampicin, the latter used as a reference. The washout period between crossovers was one-week. Mean pharmacokinetic parameter values of rifampicin obtained for formulations A, B, C, and D products were 11.42 ± 3.41 μ g/ml, 7.86 ± 5.78 μ g/ml, 13.05 ± 6.80 μ g/ml, and 16.18 ± 3.87 $\mu g/ml$, respectively, for $C_{_{max}}$; and 91.43 ± 30.82 $\mu g/h/$ ml, 55.49 ± 37.58 μ g/h/ml, 96.50 ± 47.24 μ g/h/ml, and 101.47 ± 33.07 μ g/h/ml, respectively, for AUC_{0-24h}. Only formulation A was bioequivalent to the reference product, while the other FDCs were inferior (i.e., they failed the bioequivalence criteria).

Comparative Efficacy of Rifampicin in FDCs versus Single Formulations

Two recently completed comprehensive systematic reviews and meta-analyses examining FDCs versus separate drugs conducted by Albanna et al¹⁹ in 2013 and Gallardo et al²⁰ in 2016 found little or no difference between FDCs and single-drug formulations for most outcomes reported including acquisition of drug resistance, serious adverse events, or adverse effects leading to therapy discontinuation etc. (Table 2). These reviews again support use of FDCs versus single drugs for treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis, but were limited by the lack of data on bioavailability of rifampicin. Despite the high efficacy of FDCs, concerns remain about the risks due to reduced BA of rifampicin in such formulations. Several research studies, surveys and field experiences indicate that the BA of rifampicin may be reduced due to many other factors, potentially including quality of therapeutic substances, drug formulation, storage conditions and meal intake²¹⁻²⁶.

Rifampicin Solubility

Rifampicin drug substance is known to show polymorphism, with polymorphs differing substantially in their rates of dissolution²⁷. Given this phenomenon, it is important that the correct crystal form be selected to ensure proper dissolution. Variation in crystal form may cause variation in bioavailability, in formulations with rifampicin alone or in FDCs, between batches from a given manufacturer and from one manufacturer to another, depending on the polymorphic form of the drug product and any polymorphic changes that occur during drug product formulation. The problem may be amplified in the case of FDCs, since the formulations must try to ensure the proper dissolution of all the active substances, resulting in constraints that may limit the ability of the formulations to enhance the rate of dissolution for rifampicin relative to a formulation containing only rifampicin as the active ingredient.

Rifampicin is absorbed well from the stomach, while isoniazid is predominantly absorbed in the intestinal environment²⁸. Importantly, rifampicin has shown instability in the presence of dissolved isoniazid in acidic conditions, such as the gastric environment, ultimately impairing rifampicin bioavailability in this combination treatment. It has been reported that rifampicin in the presence of isoniazid undergoes significant decomposition under acidic conditions (existing in the stomach), as compared to rifampicin alone²⁹. The decomposition of rifampicin under acidic conditions varies from 8.5% to 50% in the time range corresponding to the normal gastric residence time in humans³⁰.

FDC Formulation Stability

A laboratory stability study of four FDC formulations by Singh et al³¹ in India in 2003 assessed FDC product stability in strip-packaging as compared to blister-packaging at a temperature of 40°C and relative humidity of 75%. FDC products in unpacked conditions showed severe (approximately 60%) decomposition of rifampicin and extensive physical changes. Thus, inadequate packaging technology that substantially affects FDC quality can be a potential reason for poor bioavailability. Nevertheless, exploring the latter was beyond the scope of this study.

Discussion

Rifampicin continues to play a key role in the treatment of drug-sensitive tuberculosis; reduction in its bioavailability, especially if it occurs due to use in fixed dose combinations, can adversely affect TB treatment in a large number of patients. Drug related factors (e.g. quality of drug substance), production process, packaging, storage and distribution, and environmental conditions can affect the BA of rifampicin. For this reason, quality assurance of the drug product throughout the manufacturing processes including its entire shelf-life is of utmost importance to prevent undesirable clinical consequences resulting from suboptimal quality of medication. The authors acknowledge that this review does not allow for the establishment of the root causes of the low and/or variable rifampicin BA results observed both in the rifampicin-only and FDC drug products. Poor drug substance quality, stability issues, drugdrug interactions, and poor formulation development may all play a role. In cases of poor BA for the rifampicin-only material, it is easier to narrow down the problem to either an inadequate drug level (formulation error or low quality) or an unacceptable formulation (rate of drug release). It is more difficult to establish the root causes of poor BA of rifampicin in FDCs as many possible factors outlined above need to be considered. NTPs need to generate additional evidence to inform policies on FDCs use at national, subnational and individual levels. It is highly recommended that manufacturers combine routine monitoring studies for pharmacovigilance of anti-TB drugs with BA/PK studies for rifampicin and FDCs. Collection of additional data on pharmacokinetics and other information combined with post-marketing surveillance studies is also important for the manufacturers. Results of these studies should be shared in a timely manner across the TB community, nationally and internationally, to inform future policy and programmatic decisions for improved treatment outcome. The authors also acknowledge that the present study is unable to fully assess sources of bias in individual studies that may have led to the observation of low BA of rifampicin in FDCs. However, an attempt was made to minimize bias in the selection of the studies shortlisted for presentation in the paper by having at least two authors review the 451 references that were identified from PubMed, related databases, and international websites including WHO.

The first step to ensuring better FDC quality is being alert to the possibility of lowered BA of rifampicin and other anti-TB drugs. NTPs must continue to insist on procuring only WHO-prequalified drugs, preferably through the Global Drug Facility (GDF); NTPs must also periodically test FDCs for BA / BE (e.g., through clinical studies or clinicallyrelevant dissolution studies) or conduct population-based PK studies of FDCs. Proper storage and distribution of FDCs as per guidelines should be ensured. Finally, the NTP should educate clinical staff and health workers on the importance of maintaining drug quality through monitoring of adverse drug events and treatment outcomes.

Currently, most of the high TB burden countries can access quality assured TB drugs through the GDF procurement mechanism supported by the Global Fund. Despite good economic progress, TB is still prevalent and a significant public health problem in many high-burden countries. The anticipated graduation of these countries from the Global Fund poses significant challenges as not all countries are prepared to successfully take over the responsibility for quality assured drug procurement and adequate supply chain management. In such circumstances establishing regional coordination mechanisms for drug quality monitoring can be an effective solution. There is a need to establish Regional Centers of Excellence (COE) to assess quality of FDCs and study rifampicin BA in collaboration with international experts as well as potential involvement of appropriate local contract research organizations (CROs). In terms of logistics, it will be necessary to determine their location and develop suitable international collaborations with expert groups who are conversant with this area. COEs should conduct in vivo bioequivalence or other PK studies in accordance with the guidelines of the WHO Prequalification Team. Developing a clinically relevant dissolution test and making it systematically available to high TB burden countries can be an effective solution to the problem. Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) and Good Clinical Practices (GCP) must be followed in the relevant studies and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) must be followed in the preparation of the drug products. The COE network should establish common standard operating procedures (SOPs) to ensure uniform clinical, bioanalytical, pharmacokinetic, and statistical frameworks and reporting. If field studies indicate substandard BA of drugs in specific batches, actions need to be taken. These might include dose adjustments and use of alternative or additional drug products, with review and scientific support from COEs, international agencies (e.g. WHO, IUATLD) and the NTP.

WHO and IUATLD recommend the use of FDCs as an important step to ensure proper treatment of TB. The rationale for use of FDCs is that it simplifies the prescription of drugs, management of drug supply, and may also limit the risk of drug-resistant tuberculosis because of inappropriate drug selection and monotherapy³². Recent studies and international documents as discussed above point to a problem with low bioavailability of rifampicin in fixed dose combinations. However, in the field, it remains a "hidden factor" leading to poor treatment outcomes, and the problem often goes unrecognized. It is difficult to study this issue thoroughly unless (a) there is awareness among TB program personnel of its existence; and (b) adequate laboratory and research support is available to NTPs. In stemming the tide of multi-drug resistance (MDR) and extensive drug resistance (XDR), it is paramount to ensure that bioavailability of rifampicin is adequate in any FDC formulation of first-line anti-TB drugs.

Capacity building of health care providers in adequate FDC administration is warranted to ensure timely recognition and elimination of possible causes of low absorption or uptake of a drug within FDCs (e.g., food effect

issues), or institute dose adjustment if low uptake has been demonstrated. These areas should be well reflected into the National Training Plans to be implemented by NTPs within the nearest 1 to 3-year period. National TB programs should also revisit patient education programs and available materials to ensure that patients are aware of and closely follow drug intake and storage instructions.

Close collaboration between NTP and National Drug Authorities (NDA) is a critical precondition for addressing anti TB drugs' quality related concerns. A short to medium term (3-5 years) strategic framework for TB should entail a recommended set of activities to be implemented by NDAs. This could include organizing periodic drug quality/ pharmaceutical audits; ensuring rapid and effective remediation procedures if poor quality material is found; supporting regular BA / PK studies based on WHOrecommended protocol at the central medicine store and regional level combining pharmacovigilance / adverse drug reaction monitoring with BA / PK studies. Countries may decide to seek technical assistance through international agencies for strengthening systems and introducing tools for drug quality assurance as well as revisiting current National TB Strategies to prioritize activities aimed at quality assured treatment for drug-sensitive TB.

Conclusion

A multitude of recent studies appear to indicate reduced bioavailability of rifampicin either in fixed-dose combinations or in stand-alone preparations of the drug, with the reduction dependent on a variety of factors, which need to be studied further. However, the current BA methodology is expensive for national program. There is a need to come up with a simplified approach for carrying out BA studies as part of post-marketing surveillance. Countries experiencing high levels of rifampicin resistance, should plan new, independent BA assessments for FDCs using simplified protocols.

Capacity building of health care providers in adequate FDC administration is warranted to ensure timely recognition and elimination of possible causes of low absorption or uptake of a drug within FDCs (e.g., food effect issues), or institute dose adjustment if low uptake has been demonstrated. These areas should be well reflected into the National Training Plans to be implemented by NTPs within the nearest 1 to 3-year period. National TB programs should also revisit patient education programs and available materials to ensure that patients are aware of and closely follow drug intake and storage instructions.

Disclaimer

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