



Egos, GE, Evasco, HI, Guray, CV, Bilangbilin, PC, Bernardino, ML, Magali SF, Evangelista, MS, Ferrera, VR, Quelapio, MI, Tupasi, TE, "Additionality of the second sputum in the monitoring of treatment of MDR-TB patients," *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, Vol. 11, No. 11, (November) 2007, Supplement 1: S214.

Objective: To analyze the additionality of sputum culture of a second specimen in the bacteriological monitoring of MDR-TB patients.

Materials and methods: The results of one or two specimens collected from patients on follow up in 2006 were retrospectively reviewed and compared.

Results: Two specimens were collected from MDR-TB patients on treatment for monthly follow-up by culture. A total of 1396 specimens for culture during the intensive phase and 1066 during the continuation phase were processed. During the intensive phase, 35 (3.0%) were culture-positive, 28 (80.0%) by the first and 7 (20.0%) by the second specimen. During the continuation phase 13 (1.0%) were positive, 11 (84.6%) by the first and 2 (15.4%) by the second specimen. The latter two patients who were culture-positive only by their second specimen on the continuation phase were on their 7th and 8th month of treatment, respectively.

Conclusion: If only one specimen will be collected during the intensive phase, 20% will be missed, if only one specimen will be collected on the 7th and 8th month of the continuation phase, 15% will be missed. But starting on the 9th month of treatment, none will be missed for those that remain positive on culture.