

Auer, C, Lagahid, J, Roa, C, Ang, C, Van Deun, A, Tanner, M, Weiss, MG, Quelapio I, Orillaza, R, Mira, N, Belen, V and Tupasi, TE, "Smear positivity at two/three months of treatment: does it indicate MDR-TB?" *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, Vol. 9, No. 11, (November) 2005, Supplement 1: S245.

Methodology: The records of 181 new and 226 re-treatment cases (all smear-positive) treated at a private-public hospital based DOTS program in Manila, were reviewed (years 1999 to 2003). DOTS-Plus is also done at this clinic. Also, the records of 715 new and 162 re-treatment cases (all smear-positive) treated in a public DOTS program of a municipality of Manila were reviewed (years 2001 to 2002). Drug susceptibility tests were done as part of a study.

Results: a) Hospital-based patients: New Cases: Thirty-six (20%) were still smear positive at 2 months of treatment (non-converters). MDR-TB was identified among 2 of them (5.6%). Re-treatment cases: Twenty-two (10%) were non-converters. MDR TB was identified among 16 of them (73%).

b) Public DOTS patients: New Cases: Forty (6%) were still smear positive at two months of treatment, and of these two of the 22 patients with drug susceptibility tests (9%) had MDR TB. Re-treatment cases: Eleven (6.8%) were still smear positive at 2 months of treatment, and of these, four of the seven patients with drug susceptibility tests (57%) had MDR TB.

Conclusion: Among re-treatment cases but not among new cases, sputum non-conversion strongly indicated MDR TB, especially among the patients of the well known hospital based DOTS program that also does DOTS-Plus.