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Sputum culture conversion rate among extensive drug resistance tuberculosis patients on Bedaquiline (BDQ) background regimen, in the National Tuberculosis Hospital, Swaziland**Faiza A Hassen**

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Background: Drug resistant tuberculosis (DR TB) is a major public health problem and Swaziland is amongst the high burden countries. XDR TB is newly emerged in the country according to reports from health facilities and it is difficult to treat due to lack of effective drugs. Bedaquiline (BDQ) is a new antibiotic that was approved for the treatment of multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis.

Objectives: This study will provide the analysis of culture conversion rate of XDR TB patients on Bedaquiline.

Method: A retrospective cohort study performed on all bacteriologically conformed pre-XDR and XDR TB patients who are exposed to second line TB drugs, initiated on BDQ based regimen from July.2015 to January 2016.

Results: A total of 27 patients involved in the study, 12 are confirmed pre-XDR and 15 are XDR TB patients. All of them are on individualized regimen including BDQ and other 3 to 4 effective anti TB drugs according to the resistance pattern and/or history of drug exposure. 100% of patients were getting linezolid and clofazimine on their regimen. All of the patients had pulmonary tuberculosis and were culture positive at initiation. Patients were followed for 6 months with sputum TB culture result at 2nd, 4th and 6th months. From 27 (100%) patients, 15 (50.5%) sputum culture converted within 2 months, 24 (88.8%) at 4th month and 25 (92.5%) at 6 month and 1 (3.7%) not converted and 1 (3.7%) died before 2nd months. In total the culture conversion rate at 6th month is 27 of 25 (92.5%).

Conclusions: BDQ backbone XDR TB regimen is promising for better outcome on the management of pre-XDR and XDR TB who are exposed for second line anti TB drugs.

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