

International Baltic Symposium

Introduction of new and repurposed drugs in the programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis (PMDT) – from science to practice

23 – 24 of May 2016,

Riga, Latvia

Background

Long term efforts to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) have not achieved expected results, partially due to increasing levels of drug resistant (DR) TB. Diagnosis and appropriate treatment of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) as well as extensively drug-resistant-TB (XDR-TB) represent major challenges to TB control, mainly due to their complex diagnostic and treatment requirements. Significant technological and scientific progress in diagnosis of TB and DR-TB has been made leading to increased deployment of molecular tests for TB and DR-TB in national TB programs allowing reducing diagnostic time of DR-TB from 2-3 months to 2-3 hours. And after a nearly 50 year gap in TB drug discovery, finally progress is being made and new (although very few) drugs are available.

It is therefore imperative that adequate provisions for safe, rational and effective use of these drugs be put in place, specifically ensuring appropriate selection of eligible patients, informed consent, design of effective regimens, and close patient monitoring and evaluation.

In order to scale up the use of new drugs in safe and effective manner in Baltic countries the scientific symposium for regional TB experts is organized by WHO Collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Management of MDR-TB of Riga East University Hospital, Centre for TB and Lung Disease, Latvia,

NGO Tuberculosis Foundation of Latvia, Tartu University Hospital Lung Clinic and Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, with support of UAB “Johnson & Johnson”.

Objectives of symposium are:

- To provide an update on current evidence and WHO policy recommendations on the use of new and re-purposed drugs;
- To discuss the programmatic introduction and future positioning of new drugs – TB patient triage concept, future regimen design, treatment duration;
- To share experiences and practices from countries using new and re-purposed drugs for adults and children;
- To decide on common strategies in Baltic states on future improvements of M/XDR-TB management.

Location: Conference room of “Biblioteka №1” restaurant, Terbatas street 2, Riga.

Language: English with simultaneous translation to Russian.

DAY 1, 23.05.2016

Time	Session	Facilitator
11:00-11:55	Registration of participants and morning coffee.	
11:55-12:30	Opening ceremony.	<i>Ministry of Health of Latvia, representatives from Estonia and Lithuania</i>
	Host presentation: Introduction and objectives of the Baltic Symposium. What are our expectations?	<i>Andra Cirule, Head doctor of TB and Lung Diseases Centre of Riga East University hospital</i>
Session I Chairs: Prof. Skaidrius Miliauskas, Vaira Leimane		
12:35-13:10	Global perspective and lessons learned in use of new and re-purposed anti TB drugs.	<i>Prof. Jennifer Furin, senior lecturer, Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Boston, MA</i>
13:10-14:10	Lunch	
14:10-14:45	Present and future of laboratory diagnostics – new techniques and technologies.	<i>Girts Skenders, scientist of University of Latvia</i>
14:50-15:25	Microbiological evidence for the use of new and repurposed drugs against a variety of <i>M. Tuberculosis</i> strains.	<i>Girts Skenders, scientist of University of Latvia</i>
15:25-15:55	Coffee break	
Session II Chairs: Manfred Danilovits, Liga Kuksa		
15:55-16:30	Treatment regimen design, options with and without new and re-purposed drugs.	<i>Vaira Leimane, TB and Lung Diseases Centre of Riga East University hospital</i>
16:35-17:10	Feasibility, effectiveness and safety of 9-month treatment regimen for MDR-TB.	<i>Gunta Dravniece, MDR- TB senior consultant, KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation</i>
Closing of the day Dinner at 19:00, Restaurant “Kalku varti”, 11a Kalku street, Riga Gathering in hotel’s lobby at 18:45		

DAY 2, 24.05.2016

Time	Session	Facilitator
9:00	Opening of day 2 Experience exchange Session III Chairs: <i>Prof. Iveta Ozere, Gunta Dravniece</i>	
9:00-9:35	Use of new and re-purposed drugs in children.	<i>Prof. Iveta Ozere, TB and Lung Diseases Centre of Riga East University hospital</i>
9:40-10:25	Main safety considerations. Active drug safety monitoring and management (aDSM).	<i>Prof. Jennifer Furin, senior lecturer, Harvard Medical School, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Boston, MA</i>
10:25-10:50	Coffee break	
10:50-11:20	Drug resistant tuberculosis in Lithuania.	<i>Prof. Skaidrius Miliauskas Department of Pulmonology and immunology, Hospital of Lithuanian University of Health Sciences</i>
11:25-11:55	Experience in using new and re-purposed drugs in Estonia.	<i>Manfred Danilovits, Tartu University Hospital, Lung Clinic</i>
12:00-12:30	MDR-TB treatment with new and re-purposed drugs in Latvia: achievements and challenges.	<i>Liga Kuksa, head of MDR-TB department, TB and Lung diseases Centre of Riga East University hospital</i>
12:30-13:10	Discussion - common strategies in Baltic states on future improvements of M/XDR-TB management <i>Discussion moderators: Gunta Dravniece, Jennifer Furin, Manfred Danilovits</i>	
13:10-14:10	Lunch	
	Session Chair: Vaira Leimane	
14:10-14:55	Ethical issues using new and repurposed drugs.	<i>Liga Kuksa, Head of MDR-TB department, TB and Lung diseases Centre of Riga East University hospital</i>
15:00-15:45	Discovery and Development of Bedaquiline, a Rocky Road. Resistance Mechanisms.	<i>Koen Andries, Discovery Team Leader Bedaquiline, Janssen Pharmaceuticals</i>
15:45	Issue brief Presentation, Closing of Symposium, Coffee.	
16:30	Press conference	