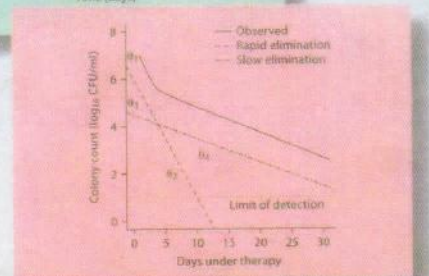
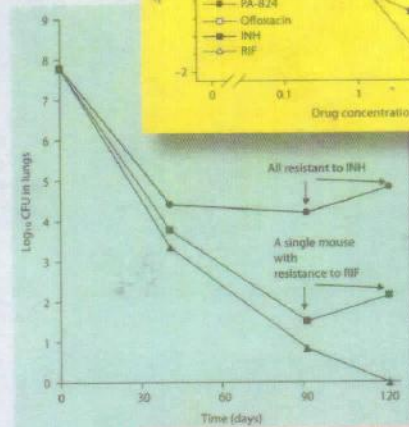
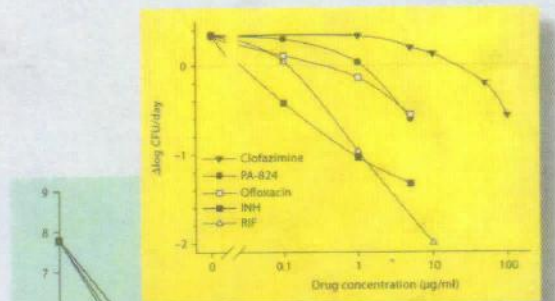
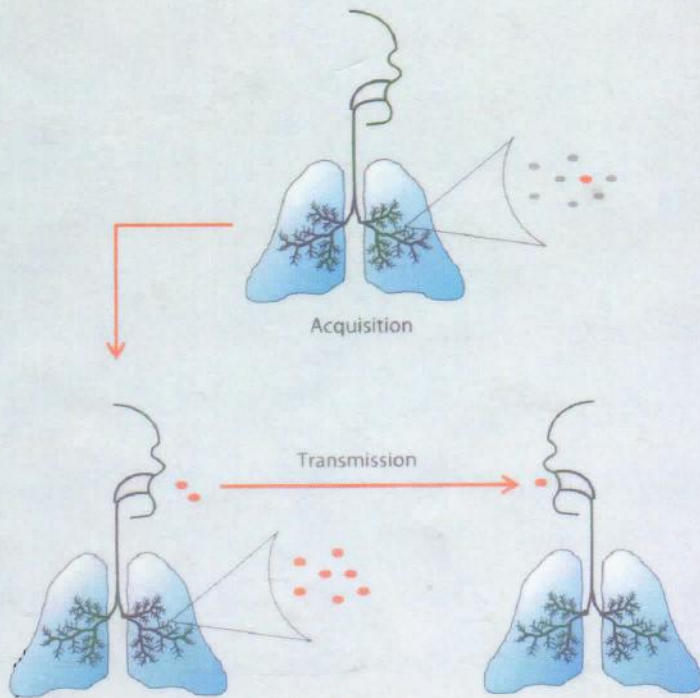


Antituberculosis Chemotherapy

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Progress in Respiratory Research

Vol. 40

Series Editor

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Antituberculosis Chemotherapy

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53 figures, 2 in color, 50 tables, 2011

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

Bibliographic Indices. This publication is listed in bibliographic services, including Current Contents®.

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www.karger.com

Printed in Switzerland on acid-free and non-aging paper (ISO 9706) by Reinhardt Druck, Basel

ISSN 1422-2140

ISBN 978-3-8055-9627-5

e-ISBN 978-3-8055-9628-2

Contents

Foreword	VII
Preface	VIII
<hr/> Retrospectroscope <hr/>	
Chapter 1 History of Drug Discovery: Early Evaluation Studies and Lessons Learnt from Them Ahmad, Z. (Baltimore, Md./Srinagar); Makaya, N.H.; Grosset, J. (Baltimore, Md.)	2
Chapter 2 Tuberculosis Treatment Trials Past and Present: Old and New Challenges Nunn, A. (London)	10
<hr/> Present Treatment <hr/>	
Chapter 3 The Rifamycins: Renewed Interest in an Old Drug Class Burman, W. (Denver, Colo.); Dooley, K.E.; Nuernberger, E.L. (Baltimore, Md.)	18
Chapter 4 Isoniazid Pharmacokinetics and Efficacy in Adults and Children Donald, P.R.; Schaaf, H.S. (Tygerberg)	25
Chapter 5 Recent Developments in the Study of Pyrazinamide: An Update Mitchison, D.A. (London); Zhang, Y. (Baltimore, Md.)	32
Chapter 6 Experience with Phase III Clinical Trials of Antituberculosis Drugs and Regimens: Conclusions and Lessons for the Future Jindani, A. (London)	44
Chapter 7 Fluoroquinolones in the Management of Tuberculosis Singh, K.P. (London); Gillespie, S.H. (St. Andrews)	51
Chapter 8 Current Standard Treatment Vernon, A.A. (Atlanta, Ga.)	61
Chapter 9 Tuberculosis Recurrence: Exogenous or Endogenous? Williams, M.; Müller, B.; Uys, P.; Victor, T.C.; Warren, R.M.; Gey van Pittius, N.C. (Tygerberg)	73
Chapter 10 Second-Line Antituberculosis Drugs: Current Knowledge, Recent Research Findings and Controversies Schaaf, H.S. (Tygerberg); Seddon, J.A. (Tygerberg/London); Caminero, J.A. (Las Palmas/Paris)	81

Chapter 11	Acquisition, Transmission and Amplification of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis Müller, B.; Warren, R.M.; Williams, M. (Tygerberg); Böttger, E.C. (Zürich); Gey van Pittius, N.C.; Victor, T.C. (Tygerberg)	96
Chapter 12	The Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children Cruz, A.T.; Starke, J.R. (Houston, Tex.)	105
<hr/>		
The Future		
Chapter 13	Issues and Challenges in the Development of Novel Tuberculosis Drug Regimens Erondu, N.; Ginsberg, A. (New York, N.Y.)	118
Chapter 14	Drug Resistance in <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>: Molecular Mechanisms and Laboratory Susceptibility Testing Böttger, E.C. (Zürich)	128
Chapter 15	The Role of the Mouse Model in the Evaluation of New Antituberculosis Drugs Nuermberger, E.L. (Baltimore, Md.)	145
Chapter 16	Current Issues in Tuberculosis Pharmacokinetics Egelund, E.F.; Peloquin, C.A. (Gainesville, Fla.)	153
Chapter 17	Pharmacological Considerations of Antitubercular Agents in Children Goldman, J.L.; Kearns, G.L.; Abdel-Rahman, S.M. (Kansas City, Mo.)	161
Chapter 18	Pharmacogenetics of Antituberculosis Drugs Aarnoutse, R. (Nijmegen)	176
Chapter 19	Interactions between Antituberculosis and Antiretroviral Agents McIlleron, H. (Cape Town); Khoo, S.H. (Liverpool)	191
Chapter 20	Diabetes Mellitus and Tuberculosis Treatment Ruslami, R. (Bandung); van Crevel, R. (Nijmegen)	203
Chapter 21	Early Bactericidal Activity of Antituberculosis Agents Diacon, A.H.; Maritz, J.S.; Donald, P.R. (Cape Town)	213
Chapter 22	Assessment of Whole-Blood Bactericidal Activity in the Evaluation of New Antituberculosis Drugs Wallis, R.S. (Groton, Conn.)	220
Chapter 23	Serial Sputum Colony Counting in Drug Development Sloan, D.; Davies, G. (Liverpool)	227
Chapter 24	The Evaluation of New Antituberculosis Drugs in Children McNeeley, D.F. (Arlington, Va.); Raoof, A. (Beerse); Lin, J. (Titusville, N.J.); Marais, B.J. (Tygerberg)	235
Chapter 25	A New Era in Tuberculosis Treatment: What Does the Future Hold? Duncan, K. (Seattle, Wash.)	243
	Author Index	247
	Subject Index	248

Diabetes Mellitus and Tuberculosis Treatment

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Abstract

Diabetes mellitus (DM) not only increases the risk of active tuberculosis (TB) 3- to 5-fold, it also puts patients at an increased risk for poor treatment outcomes. The global epidemic of DM thus has serious implications for control and treatment of TB. DM in TB patients often goes unnoticed, but as many as 10–30% of TB patients may have concurrent DM. With regard to treatment, rifampicin hampers glycaemic control by increasing the metabolism of most oral antidiabetic drugs, while DM has been associated with failure of TB treatment. Some data suggest that plasma rifampicin concentrations are lower in patients with DM. Although sometimes advocated, TB prophylaxis has not been implemented widely among patients with DM. Prospective studies are needed to improve prevention, early detection and treatment of concomitant DM and TB, especially in developing countries.

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as high as before, according to most studies, diabetes still enhanced the severity of TB, with more pulmonary cavities and a higher bacterial load [3].

In the second half of the 20th century, the association between TB and diabetes mellitus (DM) was neglected. In recent years, with the current global growth of DM, the link between the 2 diseases is being rediscovered. The epidemic growth of DM occurs especially in developing countries, where TB is highly endemic. As a result, DM and TB will increasingly present together, and this calls for renewed interest in this topic. In this chapter we will focus on combined TB and DM, and on TB prophylaxis for DM patients.

Diabetes Mellitus and Tuberculosis – Epidemiology

Both type 1 and type 2 DM are associated with an increased risk of TB; among TB patients type 2 DM is often undiagnosed. Given its worldwide prevalence, DM contributes significantly to the TB problem, especially in areas with a low HIV prevalence. Because DM is emerging rapidly, especially in TB-endemic countries, the effect of DM on the global TB epidemic will increase in the near future.

Globally, an estimated 285 million people live with DM, a number expected to grow to at least 438 million by the year 2030 when more than 80% of adult cases will live in low- or middle-income countries [4]. At present, 12–16 million people live with TB disease, and 1.2–1.4 million people die from TB every year [5]. With regard to DM, Asia is considered as the epicentre of the current diabetes pandemic; India, China, Indonesia and Pakistan (the 4 most populous

In the era before insulin therapy, patients with type 1 diabetes in the western world appeared doomed to die of pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) if they survived diabetic coma [1]. With the introduction of insulin in 1922, this picture changed, although the risk of developing TB remained high, especially in lean diabetic patients [2]. The risk correlated with duration of diabetes and with the extent of hyperglycaemia [2]. Once diagnosed, TB often ran a rapid, progressive course in diabetes patients. Among 2,010 patients treated between 1930 and 1953, 1,061 (53%) died, the majority within 1 year [3]. Following the introduction of the first antituberculous drugs, streptomycin (1945), para-aminosalicylic acid (1949) and isoniazid (INH; 1952), the prognosis of diabetic patients with TB improved dramatically. Although mortality was not