Ongoing Observational Study of a Nine-Month MDR-TB Treatment Regimen in Africa Shows Promising Results

The Union is using an operational research approach to test a shortened treatment regimen for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) that has demonstrated a greater than 80% success rate in studies in Bangladesh, Cameroon and Niger. Nine countries in francophone Africa are participating in The Union study: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Rwanda.

Patient enrolment was concluded in March 2015, and more than 1,000 patients are now receiving treatment through the study. Encouraging preliminary results were presented at the 2014 Union World Conference in Barcelona, with 83% treatment success in the first cohort of 356 patients. Further results will be presented at the 2015 conference in Cape Town this December.

The objective is to evaluate the effectiveness and the tolerance of the treatment delivered under programme conditions. After having standard clinical and laboratory examinations, eligible patients receive treatment under strict daily observation. Their clinical and bacteriological responses are followed-up monthly through treatment and for two years after completion.

The study began in January 2013 after it received approval from the World Health Organization and clearance from the ethics committees of The Union and each participating country.

This study, which will run through 2016, is funded by the French 5% Initiative (Expertise-France).

FROM EVIDENCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH ACTION
Since our founding as a global scientific organisation in 1920, The Union has drawn from the best evidence and expertise to advance solutions to public health challenges affecting people living in poverty.

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