NEED AND ACCESSIBILITY OF NEW TB DRUG REGIMENS

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Photo: David Harrison for Treatment Action Campaign
WHY DO WE NEED NEW TB TREATMENTS?
14,600 pills. Daily painful injection.
Suicidal feelings. Deafness.

This is not good enough.

#CoughUpTheTBMoney
TRIAL DESIGN AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS TO GET TO BETTER TREATMENT
OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

• What is enough information to go into phase III?
• When, if ever, is it appropriate to forego a control? Randomization?
• How can trials be ethically conducted to gain information about a drug or regimen amidst changing standards of care, and how can adopting new treatments avoid inhibiting important data collection?
• How can we avoid perpetuating the current state of insufficient evidence for the drugs/regimens recommended for use?
• How to balance urgency of immediate access needs with importance of knowing safety/efficacy profile of drug/regimen?
• How can FDA be empowered to hold sponsors accountable for following through on conditions of approval?
TRIAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

• Seamless designs
  • Maximizing efficiency

• Phase IIIC trials
  • Gathering more data about regimen(s) before exposing many patients/utilizing resources
  • Validating endpoints

• Endpoints
  • E.g. adverse event-free, relapse-free cure as a primary endpoint in a superiority trial to improve safety profile while maintaining efficacy

• Non-inferiority trials and margins
  • Setting the bar high enough, avoiding a slippery slope

• Controls
INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- **We must end systematic exclusion of:**
  - Pregnant women
    - “In the absence of research, each pregnant woman treated for TB becomes an individual experiment” (McKenna et al, CID, 2017)
  - Adolescents and children
  - Default must be to include, and provide a rationale for opting out
    - also need pregnancy registry
- **Also need additional research in special populations**
  - People of advanced age
  - People with low CD4 counts
  - People who use drugs/alcohol/opioid substitution therapy
WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Vast experience reviewing protocols / study concepts
- all late-stage MDR-TB trials except Otsuka’s
- most late-stage prevention and DS-TB trials

What’s routinely missing
- Plans for results dissemination
- Plans for post-trial access
- Adequate composition (or even presence) of control arm
- Use of non-stigmatizing language in study documents
- Appropriate inclusion of key affected groups

REPURPOSING DRUGS: WHAT TO DO IN ABSENCE OF A TB INDICATION?

- **clofazimine**
  - How to ethically gather important safety/efficacy/dosing data, when now part of standard of care, and urgent access needs?

- **linezolid**
  - No clear regulatory pathway for pediatric formulation
ACCESS
PREAPPROVAL ACCESS

- Important option for patients; allows for more experience with product
- Existing expanded access functional in U.S.
- Right to Try could do harm without addressing barriers
- Could a unified platform streamline process?

Results—CDER receives over 1000 applications for expanded access each year. The majority are for single patients, roughly evenly split between emergency and nonemergency use. The vast majority, 99.7%, are allowed to proceed. The incidence of clinical holds for all commercial investigational drug development programs is 7.9%, as compared to only 0.2% related to adverse events observed in patients receiving drug treatments under expanded access.
# PRICE HIKES AND SHORTAGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TB Product</th>
<th>Suppliers</th>
<th>Reason(s) for Shortage (2011–2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isoniazid</td>
<td>Teva, West-Ward (VersaPharm), Sandoz</td>
<td>Lack of raw materials; manufacturing discontinuation; other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethambutol</td>
<td>Teva, West-Ward (VersaPharm), Lupin</td>
<td>Manufacturing discontinuation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injectable rifampin</td>
<td>Bedford, Pfizer, West-Ward (VersaPharm)</td>
<td>Increased demand outpacing supply; other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capreomycin</td>
<td>Akorn</td>
<td>Manufacturing problems; lack of raw materials; sole-source U.S. manufacturer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amikacin</td>
<td>Teva, Bedford (discontinuing production)</td>
<td>Manufacturing problems; lack of raw materials; increased demand outpacing supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptomycin</td>
<td>X-GEN</td>
<td>Increased demand outpacing supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanamycin</td>
<td>APP Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>No longer produced in the United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Since 2005, the CDC has also received reports of difficulty obtaining isoniarif, rifamate, rufabutin, ethionamide, and cycloserine.

Table from: http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/tagline/2013/fall/obligatory-overhaul-address-domestic-tb-drug-shortages
PRICE HIKES AND SHORTAGES

• U.S. product supply vulnerable
  • 16% of drug shortages for anti-infective drugs (GAO)
• “low incidence paradox” (CDC); underlying causes unaddressed
• FDA needs support/authorization to:
  • facilitate importation of global, quality-assured medicines to harmonize domestic and global markets
  • enforce shortages reporting
  • create formulary/list of essential medicines

“BE BOLD. MAKE HISTORY. BUT DO IT STRINGENTLY.”

-MARK HARRINGTON
JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Researchers, clinicians, and policymakers can also be powerful advocates

Sign up to take action!
http://bit.ly/2rJGKO1
OR
www.treatmentactiongroup.org/tb -- click on the TB Research Action Network link

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