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Title: Drug sensitivity pattern (first line ATT) in DOTS failure & relapse cases (Cat I & Cat II) rntcp, India

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Body: BACKGROUND: Patients with pulmonary TB require retreatment if they fail or develop relapse following the initial treatment on DOTS (Cat I or II). Early diagnosis of such cases is important to prevent the drug resistant tuberculosis. If diagnosed as MDR TB, it should be treated aggressively, thus treatment can be rationalized and outcomes of relapse & failure cases can be improved by performing DST (drug sensitivity test). OBJECTIVE: To know the drug sensitivity pattern among DOTS failure & relapse cases by culture of sputum & drug sensitivity. MATERIAL & METHODS: 60 cases who were smear or culture positive at the end of DOTS treatment were registered (cat I & cat II). 42 patients out of 60 had already completed cat I DOTS & 18 patients were of DOTS cat II. Early Morning sputum samples were collected for culture & DST in .Egg based LJ media was used for AFB culture & DST. it was performed by using the proportion method. Results were obtained at the end of 6th week post culture. All these patients had clinical as well as radiological deterioration after DOTS therapy completion. Study was conducted in dept. of TB & CHEST DISEASES. IMS. RESULT: 14 patients out of 42 cases of DOTS CAT I turned out to be multi drug resistant cases (33.33%) which were resistant to H & R respectively. 8 out of 18 cases of DOTS CAT II turned out to be MDR cases (44.44%). CONCLUSION: 33% of CAT I failure cases developed MDR TB which is very alarming & the result of present trial supports the performance of early culture & DST in all patients of failure & relapse cases. 44% of CAT II patients developed MDR TB which is again discouraging & warrants to search the cause behind such high incidence of drug resistance.