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The looming threat of bedaquiline resistance in tuberculosis

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The first step to reduce the risk of creating an epidemic of bedaquiline-resistant TB entails addressing the lack of access to rapid fluoroquinolone drug susceptibility testing in a high proportion of MDR-/RR-TB in low- and middle-income countries <https://bit.ly/2KbtyZ3>

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To the Editor:

Multidrug- and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-/RR-TB) have evolved into a global public health crisis. In late 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a rapid communication [1] advising national TB programmes to phase out the injectable-containing shorter regimen. WHO indicated that the preferred treatment option is a shorter, all-oral, bedaquiline-containing regimen and emphasised that “access to rapid drug susceptibility testing, especially for ruling out fluoroquinolone resistance, is required” before starting the bedaquiline-containing shorter regimen [1].