

Drug-resistant tuberculosis has a dangerous impact on public health in the Republic of Moldova

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Background: Drug resistance represents a serious obstacle to effective tuberculosis (TB) control in Moldova. The results of drug resistance surveillance (DRS) can reflect the indicators of TB control program efficacy. Multidrug resistance (MDR) is one of the main causes of ineffective treatment of new TB cases.

The aim of the study: To estimate the trends of TB drug resistance in Moldova during the period of 2006-2011. The results of DRS to I line TB drugs among new and previously treated TB cases were studied.

Methods: DRS included all isolates from new patients diagnosed with pulmonary TB during the last 7 years. The DST was performed in the National TB Reference Laboratory and three regional tuberculosis reference laboratories.

Results: The prevalence of TB resistance increased considerably during the last period. In the performed study, the results of DRS from 7240 TB new cases and 6997 previously treated TB cases were analyzed. The level of primary drug resistance has been increased from 42.0% to 49.2% during this period, and MDR TB from 19.4% to 29.2%. Among previously treated patients the level of MDRTB increased from 50.8% up to 63.4%. Though the patients with MDRTB, detected in 2011, 13.8% were identified with extensively drug resistance.

Conclusion: At the current stage TB drug resistance is a serious problem in the Republic of Moldova, having serious impact on public health and economic consequences. The increased number of resistant cases influences the treatment results. The accumulation of a greater number of resistant strains in the society can lead to infection and increases the number of TB resistant cases.

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