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Internationale Nachrichten

1. WHO: Proposed Global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015

At the World Health Assembly (WHA) 2012, Ministers of Health called on the World Health Organization to develop a post-2015 TB strategy and accompanying targets for their consideration in 2014. The Global TB Programme in consultation with countries, WHO country and regional offices, and partners has developed a draft strategy framework.

The Executive Board reviewed the WHO proposed global strategy and targets for TB prevention, care and control after 2015 in January 2014. The Executive Board endorsed and recommended, the post-2015 global TB strategy and targets and a resolution (in support of the strategy and targets) for consideration and adoption by the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (WHA) which meets in May 2014.

The resolution can be downloaded here: http://www.who.int/tb/post2015_strategy/en/index.html

Source: WHO <http://ow.ly/tdKEn> (Januar 2014)

2. South Africa: XDR-TB spreading as uncured patients go home

Extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) appears to be spreading in South Africa, fueled by patients who are discharged despite failing therapy, researchers reported.

In a prospective cohort of patients with XDR-TB, most patients died and only a handful were cured, according to Keertan Dheda, PhD, of University of Cape Town in South Africa, and colleagues.

About 40% were eventually discharged into the community and of those, almost half had failed treatment and remained alive and contagious for a median of 19.8 months, Dheda and colleagues reported online in *The Lancet*.

Source: Med Page Today, <http://ow.ly/t7gEA> (17. Januar 2014)

3. Gates Foundation, SA link to combat HIV, TB, malaria

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on Tuesday announced multimillion-rand partnerships with South African institutions to develop new medicines and vaccines for HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria

The foundation partnered on two multi-year programmes, one with the Medical Research Council's Strategic Health Innovation Partnerships (Ship) unit and the other with the University of Cape Town's Drug Discovery and Development Centre (H3-D). [...]

The council would receive R125-million over three years to lead and fund research aimed at developing Aids and TB vaccines, adding to the R130-million from the department of science and technology and R60-million from the department of health. [...]



H3-D would receive about R55-million over five years to "develop clinical drug candidates to address TB and malaria challenges", they said. The department of science and technology-funded Technology Agency has already allocated R50-million to the centre.

Source: Mail & Guardian, <http://ow.ly/t7hZ6> (21. Januar 2014)

4. Global Collaboration Forms to Advance Japanese TB Vaccine Technology

Osaka, Japan and Rockville, MD, USA - Japan's National Institute of Biomedical Innovation ("NIBIO"), Aeras and Create Vaccine Company, Ltd ("CREATE") announce today that they signed a collaboration agreement on December 26, 2013, on the preclinical and clinical development of new mucosal tuberculosis (TB) vaccines based on NIBIO's human parainfluenza type-2 (rhPIV2) vector technology.

"These will be important candidates; designed to target mucous membranes to keep TB from entering the lungs," said Tom Evans, MD, President and CEO of Aeras, a nonprofit biotech advancing TB vaccines globally. "This type of collaboration among global experts is exactly the approach needed to find an effective vaccine that will end tuberculosis in Japan and around the world."

Source: AERAS, <http://ow.ly/tdHII> (27. Januar 2014)

5. State records 155 XDR-TB cases in 3 years, 8 from Pune district

The state has recorded 155 cases of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) in the last three years. Of the 155 cases, 115 alone were recorded last year. Barring nine cases, most of the patients diagnosed with XDR-TB are from Mumbai (123), Navi Mumbai (25) and Pune district (8).

Health experts say the detection of XDR-TB cases is not surprising, given the widespread prevalence of TB and the rising cases of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in India. That patients often do not complete the recommended treatment is also a factor adding to the numbers.

Source: The Times of India, <http://ow.ly/tdJLq> (31. Januar 2014)

TB in Deutschland

1. Tuberkulose-Fall an der Freien Universität Berlin

Ein Tuberkulose-Fall sorgt an der Freien Universität für Aufregung. Nun müssen 300 Studenten und Mitarbeiter auf Verdacht der Ansteckung untersucht werden. Das Tuberkulose-Zentrum der Stadt ist unterdessen modernisiert worden, um den häufiger auftretenden Fällen gerecht zu werden.

An der Freien Universität Berlin stehen zahlreiche Menschen unter Tuberkulose-Verdacht. Anfang Dezember war ein Tuberkulose-Fall im Fachbereich Rechtswissenschaften aufgetreten. Das berichtet die Berliner Zeitung unter Berufung auf das Tuberkulose-Zentrum Berlin.

Source: rbb, <http://ow.ly/swcDY> (Januar 2014)

2. Immer mehr Tuberkulose-Fälle: Zentrum schafft neues Röntgengerät an

Lichtenberg. Mit 330 Tuberkulose-Fällen verzeichnete das TBC-Zentrum in Lichtenberg 2013 erneut einen Anstieg der Erkrankungen. Ein neues Röntgengerät sorgt zwar für schnellere Untersuchungsergebnisse, doch es fehlt am Personal.

Erkrankten 2009 in Berlin noch 256 Menschen an Tuberkulose (TBC), waren es im vergangenen Jahr bereits 330. "Der Anstieg der Fallzahlen sagt aber noch wenig über die Arbeit des Tuberkulosezentrums aus", sagt die Radiologin und Leiterin des Tuberkulose-Zentrums, Gisela Glaser-Paschke. "Denn jeder einzelne TBC-Fall kann dazu führen, dass bis zu 200 Menschen betreut werden müssen."

Source: Berliner Woche, <http://ow.ly/sKEc6> (16. Januar 2014)



Forschung & Entwicklung

1. Major South African trial did not improve tuberculosis control in gold mines

A major trial aiming to cut the rate of tuberculosis (TB) among South Africa's gold miners did not reduce the number of cases or deaths from the disease, according to a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine say that the results demonstrate the scale of the TB problem in South African gold mines, and highlight the need for a "combination prevention" approach to improve TB control. The TB epidemic in South Africa's gold mines worsened with the advent of the HIV epidemic in the 1990s. In 2008, around 3% of miners started TB treatment each year.

The Thibela TB study of 78,744 miners in 15 gold mines from 2006 to 2011 looked at the effectiveness of screening and treating active TB, and providing preventive therapy to the entire workforce with the aim of interrupting TB transmission. (...)Although isoniazid preventative therapy was found to be safe and effective in preventing TB among people who took it, the effect wore off very rapidly once the treatment stopped.

Source: Medica Ixpress, <http://ow.ly/sRvIz> (22. Januar 2014)

2. Cotrimoxazole prophylaxis neither reduces TB risk nor complicates TB diagnosis in people with HIV

Cotrimoxazole prophylaxis has no impact on incidence or detection of tuberculosis (TB) in people with HIV, a study published *PLoS One* shows. The prospective, observational study involved 2393 adult participants in Soweto, South Africa. All had a CD4 cell count below 350 cells/mm³. Participants taking cotrimoxazole prophylaxis actually had a higher risk of TB compared to participants not taking the treatment. But the authors believe this was due to residual confounding. Prophylaxis with the drug did not compromise TB diagnosis and had a protective effect in term of overall mortality.

Source: Aidsmap, <http://ow.ly/t7hls> (21. Januar 2014)

3. Xpert® MTB/RIF assay for pulmonary tuberculosis and rifampicin resistance in adults

A second systematic review of a diagnostic test for tuberculosis (TB) endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), has confirmed the accuracy of the test. The updated review assessing the accuracy of Xpert® MTB/RIF includes new studies published since the original Cochrane Review was published in January last year. Led by Karen Steingart, an Editor with the Cochrane Infectious Diseases Group at LSTM, the researchers found that Xpert® MTB/RIF is more accurate than smear microscopy for diagnosing TB and also accurate for detecting rifampicin resistance. This updated Cochrane Review was one of three WHO reviews commissioned as part of the process to update the policy on the use of Xpert® MTB/RIF. The WHO policy is available at (<http://www.stoptb.org/wg/gli/xpert.asp>)

Source: Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, <http://ow.ly/t7ivi> (22. Januar 2014)

4. Neue Wirkstoffe gegen resistente Tuberkulose-Bakterien

Memphis – Aus alt mach neu. Durch eine gezielte Veränderung der Molekülstruktur des obsoleten Antibiotikums Spectinomycin hat ein Forscherteam aus den USA und der Schweiz eine ganze Gruppe von neuen semisynthetischen Wirkstoffen kreiert, die für die Behandlung der Tuberkulose interessant sein könnten. Die Studie in *Nature Medicine* (2014; doi: 10.1038/nm.3458) zeigt, dass Spectinamide auch gegen resistente Mykobakterien wirksam sind.



Spectinomycin gehört zu den älteren Antibiotika. Es wird wie Streptomycin, dem ersten Tuberkulostatikum, aus Bakterien der Gattung *Streptomyces* hergestellt. Gegen *M. tuberculosis* war Spectinomycin jedoch nicht wirksam, weil die Tuberkelbakterien das Gift über eine Efflux-Pumpe aus dem Zellinneren herausschaffen, bevor es seinen Wirkort, die Ribosomen, erreicht.

Source: Ärzteblatt, <http://ow.ly/tdCGH> (28. Januar 2014)

5. Russia's drug-resistant TB spreading more easily

Newly discovered mutations help tuberculosis to stay infectious while evolving resistance to multiple drugs.

TB, which is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, exploded in Russia and other former Soviet nations in the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and its health system. The incomplete antibiotic regimens some patients received, meanwhile, sparked rampant drug resistance. But the latest study of TB cases in Russia, published today in *Nature Genetics* (1), indicates that such 'programmatic' failures may not be the only explanation for the rise of drug-resistant TB in the region — biological factors also play a big part.

Bacterial 'superbugs' are getting ever more potent. Tuberculosis (TB) strains in Russia carry mutations that not only make them resistant to antibiotics but also help them to spread more effectively, according to an analysis of 1,000 genomes from different TB isolates — one of the largest whole-genome study of a single bacterial species so far.

Source: Nature, <http://ow.ly/tdluc> (26. Januar 2014)

Publikationen

1. New Clinic Report Calls for Reform of South Africa's Compensation System for Mine Workers Suffering from Lung Disease

Mine workers in southern Africa have some of the highest rates of occupational lung disease in the world. These diseases, including silicosis and tuberculosis, acquired in the gold mines of South Africa have, over many decades, left hundreds of thousands of men disabled, in penury, or dead. Under South African law, these men and their families are entitled to financial compensation, but only a small proportion of them ever receive it. When they do, it is often insufficient for their needs.

A report released on January 13 by the Global Health Justice Partnership (GHJP), a joint initiative of Yale Law School and Yale School of Public Health, explores solutions for this longstanding injustice.

The 69-page report, *Fulfilling Broken Promises: Reforming the Century-Old Compensation System for Occupational Lung Disease in the South African Mining Sector*, analyzes the failures of the South African compensation system for mine workers with occupational lung disease: <http://ow.ly/sPhSV>

Source: Yale Law School, <http://www.law.yale.edu/news/17858.htm> (13. Januar 2014)

Impressum:

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