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Internationale Nachrichten**1. Sanofi plans to lower price for rifapentine**

Sanofi U.S. has committed to lowering the price of rifapentine (Priftin) to \$32 per 32-tablet blister pack in January 2014. The company indicates that the new price will become effective in January 2014 under 340(b) Public Health Service pricing.

Source: TAG, <http://ow.ly/rTiQr> (Dezember 12, 2013)

2. Review of the National Tuberculosis Programme in the Republic of Moldova

An external comprehensive review of the National Tuberculosis Programme was organized by the WHO/Europe in the Republic of Moldova from 4-15 February 2013. Twelve international and seven national experts participated, visiting 18 districts and three municipalities, the autonomous region of Gagauzia and the Transnistria region.

The review team developed a strategic plan to improve treatment compliance and reduce loss to treatment follow up immediately after the review. The team members conveyed their key findings and recommendations at the end of the mission to the Minister of Health.

The report of the review has now been published in English: <http://ow.ly/rTelJ>

Source: WHO Europe, <http://ow.ly/rTegs> (Dezember 06, 2013)

3. Malnourished children in India below three years are underdosed for first-line TB drugs

“The ultimate goal of evidence-based drug treatment is to produce a desired pharmacological response in a predictable manner and also to minimise adverse effects,” notes a June 2013 paper published in the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. The two goals can be achieved only when the correct therapeutic drug dosage of anti-TB drugs required by children, particularly those younger than five years, and the age-related differences in toxicity and pharmacokinetics are well studied and known.

“Pharmacokinetics is the metabolism of the drugs in humans,” Dr. Peter R. Donald, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University, South Africa said in an email to this Correspondent. “The pharmacokinetics of first-line anti-TB drugs is not known for children younger than two years.”

Since children have “relatively greater mass of liver in proportion to total body weight,” they metabolise and eliminate drugs faster than adults. As a result, higher mg/kg body weight dosages are needed by them to achieve equivalent concentration of drug in the blood.

Source: The Hindu, <http://ow.ly/rTdiT> (Dezember 04, 2013)

4. Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Detection of TB cases

India does account for the highest number of TB and MDR-TB cases in the world. Though the incidence rates of TB and MDR-TB are low in our country as compared to other countries, this translates to a high absolute number of cases, given the size of our population.



The prevalence of Drug Sensitive TB has been brought down from 465/ lakh population (1990) to 230/ lakh population in 2012 and TB mortality in the country has reduced from over 38/lakh population in 1990 to 22/lakh population in 2012 as per the WHO global report 2013.

State/UT wise number of TB cases and MDR-TB cases treated under the Revised National TB Control Programme in 2012 are as given below.

Source: Press Information Bureau, Government of India, <http://ow.ly/rTiqK> (Dezember 13, 2013)

Forschung & Entwicklung

1. Whole genome sequencing holds out new hope in tuberculosis research

The use of whole genome sequencing to identify different strains of bacteria which cause tuberculosis may unlock the door to improved treatments and more accurate clinical trials, according to a new international study.

A team of researchers, including doctors from the University of St Andrews School of Medicine, has established that the unprecedented accuracy of whole genome sequencing as a method of identifying individual bacterial strains of TB has important implications for the study and prevention of the recurrence of TB infection.

Their study, published in [The Lancet Respiratory Medicine](#) has prompted an editorial from The Lancet arguing that the rapid evolution of technology could mean that WGS becomes an affordable gold standard in trials testing new TB regimens.

Source: University of St. Andrews, <http://ow.ly/rTf3B> (Dezember 05, 2013)

2. TB or not TB: New test aims to have tuberculosis patients diagnosed in real time

For the past six years, Dr. Jeffery Cirillo and his team of researchers at the Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine have been chasing a dream: To shorten the diagnosis timeline for tuberculosis (TB), one of the world's deadliest diseases, from several weeks down to just a few hours. Now they are close to the finish line in the form of a new, rapid TB test that will enable healthcare providers to report results to potentially infected individuals while they wait.

With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust, the team has discovered a new method to spot the bacteria that causes TB, a profound advance in point-of-care diagnosis of the disease.

"We've identified a fluorescence substrate that reacts with the bacteria," Cirillo said. "This gives us a very sensitive signal that wouldn't be possible otherwise."

Once sputum samples are combined with the reactive substance, a battery-powered, handheld reader is then used to detect any fluorescence and deliver the diagnosis.

Source: Texas A&M Health Science Center, <https://news.tamhsc.edu/?post=19053> (Dezember 10, 2013)

3. World's largest collection of TB strains in Antwerp

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has handed over the management of the world's largest public collection of tuberculosis (TB) strains to the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp. These TB strains are of major importance for scientific research into infectious diseases, particularly towards a better understanding of the TB bacterium's drug resistance. In November, the European Commission and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) warned that antibiotic resistance in Europe was still on the rise.

Source: Institute of Tropical Medicine, <http://ow.ly/rTk1n> (Dezember 12, 2013)



Publikationen

1. ECDC Guidance: investigation and control of TB incidents affecting children in congregate settings

The report published today provides public health guidance on how to investigate and control a tuberculosis incident among children - such as an outbreak -, in congregate settings outside the household. The findings are the end result of an assessment of current national health practices, policies and guidelines and of the conclusions of an ad hoc independent expert panel.

Read the full report:

[“ECDC Guidance: Investigation and control of TB incidents affecting children in congregate settings”.](#)

Source: ECDC, <http://ow.ly/rTkzD> , (Dezember 13, 2013)

2. Update of 2013 UNITAID TB DX landscape now out

http://www.unitaid.org/images/marketdynamics/publications/UNITAID-TB_Dx_Landscape-Update_Dec%202013.pdf

Source: UNITAID, (Dezember, 2013)

Impressum:

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