Integrating GeneXpert molecular testing technology in national health systems

Tuberculosis is among the world's most infectious diseases affecting millions of people every year, particularly in low-income countries where care is limited. In 2014 there were 9.6 million new TB cases and 1.5 million TB deaths, and global TB incidence is decreasing slowly – by less than 2 percent yearly. The spread of multidrug-resistant TB is a serious obstacle to effective TB control, combined with the inefficiency of traditional diagnostic tests which deliver results only after two months. GeneXpert is the recommended next-generation diagnostic that delivers rapid analysis.

**RESEARCH FACETS**

- Cost effectiveness of adopting the new GeneXpert diagnostic algorithm compared to the previous version
- Developing standard operating procedure for testing young children in the national system
- Exploring use of filter paper-based diagnosis of negative pulmonary tuberculosis
- Assessing needs for integrating GeneXpert in a national system

This research was supported by TDR’s Impact Grants for Regional Priorities. Formerly known as the Small Grants Scheme, these grants support researchers and public health practitioners as part of TDR’s collaboration with all WHO regional offices. The objective is to produce implementation research findings that can help build national strategies and action plans for better control and treatment of infectious diseases of poverty.

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