

The Challenge of MDR and XDR TB:

In the last several years, there has been a sharp increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis caused by multidrug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) tuberculosis. A combination of therapy with second-line drugs and surgery is often required, but these cases are difficult to treat, and outcomes are often poor. In order to combat this rise in cases of drug resistant tuberculosis, improvements must be made in tuberculosis control programs. In addition, new diagnostics and new drugs are needed urgently to fight this problem. The lecture will review current epidemiology of drug resistant tuberculosis, and will suggest strategies for controlling and treating this epidemic.