

Photo credit: John-Michael Maas for TB Alliance



The TB-CHAMP trial: Preventing MDR-TB in children

TB-CHAMP is the first randomised-controlled clinical trial seeking to find a solution to prevent MDR-TB in children.

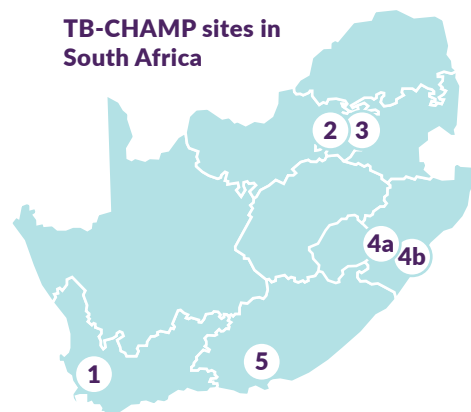
BACKGROUND

- Multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis (TB) is a form of TB that does not respond to two of the most important anti-TB drugs: isoniazid and rifampicin.
- As many as two million children are infected with MDR strains of TB bacteria and are at risk of developing MDR-TB disease.
- The current lack of high-quality evidence about which preventive treatment works best for preventing MDR-TB in children limits the uptake of much-needed treatments.

METHODS

- TB-CHAMP was a trial which investigated the efficacy and safety of levofloxacin for children and adolescents to prevent TB.
- We recruited nearly one thousand healthy children who had been exposed to an adult with MDR-TB in their household at five sites in South Africa.
- We randomised each child to receive the antibiotic levofloxacin or a placebo.
- Each child carefully took their medication every day for 6 months.
- We regularly checked in with children while they were on treatment and then followed up for a further 12 months.

TB-CHAMP sites in South Africa



- 1 Desmond Tutu TB Centre,**
Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Stellenbosch University
- 2 Perinatal HIV Research Unit,**
Klerksdorp, Wits Health Consortium
- 3 Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute,** Shandukani Research Centre, Wits Health Consortium
- 4 Tuberculosis & HIV Investigative Network,** **a** Pietermaritzburg and **b** Durban, KwaZulu Natal
- 5 Isango Lethemba TB Research Unit,**
Port Elizabeth, Wits Health Consortium

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RESULTS

› **Prevention:** The results show that levofloxacin helped prevent TB in children/adolescents with household MDR-TB exposure



469 children were given a **placebo**, with **12 developing TB**.



453 children were given **levofloxacin**, with **5 developing TB**.



There was a **56% reduction** of TB disease in children given levofloxacin.

IMPACT

› In December 2023, an advisory committee of the World Health Organization will consider new guidelines for MDR-TB preventive treatments.

› The results from the TB-CHAMP trial will provide critical data to help make new recommendations for children and adolescents.



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