

Initial drug resistance of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Taiwan.

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摘要

Abstract

The prevalence and mortality rate of pulmonary tuberculosis in adults are high in Taiwan. Because the emergence of drug-resistant tuberculosis is one of the major causes of this sustained high tuberculosis mortality, surveillance of initial drug resistance is important. We tested *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from 1,935 newly diagnosed tuberculosis patients from January 1990 through December 1995 at the Taiwan Provincial Chronic Disease Control Bureau. The overall initial drug resistance rate was 12.3%; 8.7% of isolates were resistant to only one drug, 2.6% to two drugs, 0.7% to three drugs, and 0.3% to four drugs. The resistance rates to individual drugs were: streptomycin, 5.7%; isoniazid, 9.2%; ethambutol, 0.7%; and rifampin, 1.5%. The frequency of multidrug-resistant *M. tuberculosis* (resistant to at least isoniazid and rifampin) was 1.2%. In view of the high initial isoniazid resistance rate and low initial ethambutol resistance rate, ethambutol should be added to the regimen for the initial treatment of tuberculosis in Taiwan. The emergence of multidrug-resistant *M. tuberculosis* is ominous and should be considered when treating patients in Taiwan.