



**Belen, VA, Quelapio, MID, Orillaza-Chi, RB, Maramba, EK, Gler, MT, Macalintal, LE, Raymond, LO, Tupasi, TE, “What happened to MDR-TB treatment failures?” *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, Vol. 11, No. 11, (November) 2007, Supplement 1: S175**

**Setting:** The Programmatic MDR-TB Management (PMTM) Project at the Makati Medical Treatment Center (MMC), Manila, Philippines.

**Objective:** To describe what happened to MDR-TB patients declared ‘treatment failure’ based on the definition in the WHO Guidelines for Drug-Resistant TB.

**Methods:** A list of treatment failures from 1999-2005 was generated by the Electronic Medical Record for MDR-TB patients. Contact details on clinic charts were used to get in touch with those patients, their relatives, and/or health care provider. A structured questionnaire was used to facilitate the interview to determine the current condition of the patients.

**Results:** Failure rate among 417 MDR-TB patients was 6%. Of 25 failure cases, five could not be located. Among the remaining 20, 11 (55%) had died, 6 (30%) were restarted on category IV regimen, 3 (15%) are alive. Death occurred within 5 months after disclosure of treatment failure in more than half (54%) while the remaining died later than the 5<sup>th</sup> month. Among those restarted on category IV treatment, 4 (20%) eventually failed again (1 died, 3 with unknown status), 1 (5%) cured then died and 1 (5%) underwent surgery and currently continuing treatment. Of the 3 patients alive, 1 (4%) persists to be symptomatic and is on cough suppressants, while the other 2 (8%) are asymptomatic.

**Conclusion:** Patients who fail under the PMTM program have limited treatment options, underscoring the urgent need for new drugs with novel mechanisms that would be effective for MDR-TB. Almost half of deaths occurred after more than 6 months of treatment failure, indicating the significant public health consequences of continuing transmission from these infectious MDR-TB patients. Appropriate treatment of MDR-TB patients is imperative to break transmission.

	Number of patients (%)
<b>Current status of treatment failures of PMTM</b>	
Unknown (lost to follow up)	5 (20)
Alive	3 (12)
Restarted on category IV treatment	6 (24)
Died	11 (44)
<b>Months after treatment failure when patient died</b>	
< 1	3 (27.3)
1-5	3 (27.3)
6-10	1 (9.1)
11-20	1 (9.1)
21-30	2 (18.2)
31 up	1 (9.1)