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Title: Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: A Global Security Disaster

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Introduction: Drug-resistant Tuberculosis (DR TB) is an emerging infectious disease with mass global impact. Specifically, the prevalence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR TB), extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR TB), and totally drug-resistant TB (XXDR TB) continue to increase. This pandemic coincides and is in direct conflict with the World Health Organization (WHO) Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs) "End TB Strategy" which calls for a world free of TB with zero deaths, disease, and suffering by 2035.

Methods: Literature review

Results: Since TB is passed by respiratory contact, it is an easily communicable disease for overcrowded countries and health systems. This transmission, in combination with the worsening refugee crisis in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, creates a breeding ground for DR TB. Moreover, the delayed symptom onset and long treatment requirements allow travelers between all countries to spread the disease in a continued global pandemic manner.

Conclusions: DR TB is the unfortunate perfect disease for imperfect health systems that suffer from poor or inadequate testing, treatment, and governance. DR TB is a threat to global security that requires international disaster preparedness.

Special Notes: We were invited for this talk by the conference planning committee

Figures: None