Multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis is a major health threat globally. Nearly half a million MDR TB\(^1\) cases are estimated to occur worldwide annually, including cases that are extensively drug-resistant (XDR).\(^2\)

While MDR and XDR TB are relatively rare in the U.S., their treatment comes at a terrible price – it is very expensive, takes a long time to treat, disrupts lives, and has potentially life-threatening side effects.

The Outsized Financial Toll of MDR and XDR TB

Cost increases with greater resistance:

- **TB**
  - Treatment: 6-9 mo.
  - Average Treatment Costs, Per Case (2016 dollars): $46,000

- **MDR TB**
  - Treatment: 20-26 mo.
  - Average Treatment Costs, Per Case (2016 dollars): $294,000

- **XDR TB**
  - Treatment: 32 mo.
  - Average Treatment Costs, Per Case (2016 dollars): $694,000

- Productivity loss during treatment, including deaths
- Direct treatment costs, including:
  - Drugs & diagnostics
  - Case management & social work
  - Housing & transportation
  - Hospitalization

A Major Human Cost

Of those treated for drug-resistant TB:

- **Die During Treatment**: 9%
- **Stop Working**: 27%
- **Hospitalized**: 73%
- **Require Home Isolation**: 37%

Severe Treatment Side Effects

- Depression/Psychosis: 19%
- Hearing Impairment: 13%
- Hepatitis: 13%
- Kidney Impairment: 11%
- Loss of Mobility: 8%
- Vision Impairment: 7%
- Seizures: 1%

Preventing and Controlling MDR and XDR TB in the U.S. Requires:

- **Better Treatment Options**
- **Rapid Diagnosis**
- **Expert Treatment of Every TB Case**
- **Improving Global TB Diagnosis and Treatment**

Footnotes

1 Multidrug-resistant TB is resistant to at least two of the best and most important anti-TB drugs (isoniazid and rifampin).
2 Extensively drug-resistant TB is resistant to isoniazid and rifampin among first-line drugs, resistant to any fluoroquinolone and at least one second-line injectable drug.


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http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom