The Costly Burden of Drug-Resistant TB Disease in the U.S.

Multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis disease is a major health threat globally. Nearly half a million MDR TB cases are estimated to occur worldwide annually, including cases that are extensively drug-resistant (XDR). While MDR and XDR TB are relatively rare (approximately 100 cases per year) in the United States, their treatment comes at a terrible price — it is very expensive, takes a long time to complete, disrupts lives, and has potentially life-threatening side effects. However, the number of drug-resistant cases in the United States remains stable due to effective control strategies.

### The Ousized Financial Toll of MDR and XDR TB Disease

**Cost Increases with Greater Resistance**

**Average treatment costs, per case (2018 dollars)**

- **TB**
  - Treatment: 6–9 months
  - $19,000
  - Cost increase: $30,000

- **MDR TB**
  - Treatment: 20–26 months
  - $393,000
  - Cost increase: $175,000

- **XDR TB**
  - Treatment: 32 months
  - $758,000
  - Cost increase: $544,000

**Direct treatment costs:** Drugs, diagnostics, case management, social work, housing, transportation, and hospitalization

**Productivity loss during treatment, including deaths**

**Serious Side Effects** experienced by many patients treated for drug-resistant TB:

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

A MAJOR HUMAN COST of those treated for drug-resistant TB:

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

**MDR and XDR TB are preventable and controllable in the U.S. through:**

- Better treatment options
- Rapid diagnosis
- Expert treatment of every TB case
- Improving global TB diagnosis and treatment

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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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