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Title: Treatment outcomes of MDR-TB cases registered in Bucharest sector 4 during 2004-2008

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Body: Introduction: Although the TB incidence rate declined significantly in Romania in the last decade, from 142.2‰ in 2002 to 90.2‰ in 2010, the MDR-TB remains at a rate of attention (2.9% in new and 10.9% in retreated cases). Objective: To analyze the treatment outcomes of MDR-TB cases registered in the TB Dispensary of Bucharest Sector 4, in order to optimize the TB control in its territory. Material and methods: We conducted an observational retrospective study of 78 MDR-TB cases registered in Bucharest Sector 4 since December 2004-December 2008. Data have been collected from the TB register of the dispensary, TB information system, treatment records and epidemiological surveys. Results: Out of 78 patients 35 have been included in the DOTS Plus project financed by the Global Fund (GLC group) and 43 have been treated from NTP resources (NTP group). Chronic patients represented 11.5% in GLC group and 30.3% in NTP group. By treatment history, 20% from GLC group and 46.5% from NTP group have been treated with second line antiTB drugs in the past. Overall success rate was 3 times higher in the GLC group (82.8%) than in the other (27.9%). New cases had a success rate of 95% in the GLC and only 66.6% in the NTP group. The relapses had a success rate of 72.7% in the GLC compared to 36.8% in the NTP group. The cases with second line medication in them histories have a success rate of 57.1% in the GLC and just 5% in the NTP group. Conclusion: The favorable outcome of MDR-TB patients in DOTS Plus project demonstrates the real benefit brought by this project and its extension to all MDR-TB patients in the country should be required.