

takes of drug-susceptibility test. The MAS-PCR assay can be used for the detection of resistance to isoniazid in clinical laboratories in regions with a high prevalence of MDR *M. tuberculosis* strains.

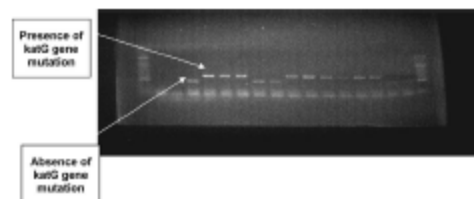


Figure MAS-PCR assay for detection of mutations in the *katG* gene.

PS-71397-10 Results of the comparative trials of TB test-kit for rapid drug susceptibility testing of *M. tuberculosis*

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Objective: To evaluate TB test-kit for susceptibility testing of *M. tuberculosis* to isoniazid, rifampicin,

PS-71437-10 Non-tuberculous mycobacteria recovered during a prevalence survey in areas with high TB prevalence in RSA

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Background: NTM (non-tuberculous mycobacteria) are often isolated from HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infected individuals, but the prevalence of NTM in community settings has not been documented.

Aim: This study forms part of baseline surveys of the Zambia South Africa TB and AIDS Reduction (ZAM-STAR) trial and aimed to investigate the occurrence of NTM during a community tuberculosis (TB) prevalence survey in areas with a high TB prevalence in the Western Cape, South Africa.

Methods: Census enumeration areas (CEA) were randomised into a sampling order. All consenting adults in the CEA submitted a spot sputum sample. Samples were cultured in the BACTEC MGIT 960 system and on Löwenstein-Jensen slants. Positive cultures were subjected to identification tests—TAUNS, niacin, p-nitro benzoic acid slants (NLJ) and spoligotyping—to

differentiate *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex from NTM. The sensitivity and specificity of the identification tests will be determined using 16S rRNA sequencing as the gold standard. The species distribution of NTM in these settings will be determined.

Results: Of the 5743 samples collected, 105 were identified as probably NTM, on the basis of absent spoligotype patterns typical of TB; as well as negative TAUNS results. NLJ showed growth (typical of NTM) in 88.6%, and the niacin test identified as NTM in 76.2% (7.6% of the niacin results were indeterminate).

Conclusion: All of the possible NTM (105 samples) are currently being subjected to 16sRNA PCR and DNA sequencing for species identification, and analysis of these results will be presented.

PS-71534-10 Concentration by centrifugation: an alternative to direct sputum smear microscopy in Cameroon?

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Setting: A provincial hospital in Cameroon treating an increasing number of TB patients with the DOTS strategy since 2002.

Objective: To evaluate a concentration method for the detection of AFB in TB suspects as an alternative to WHO recommended direct sputum smear diagnostic.

Methods: Systematic screening of all incoming TB sus-