Tuberculosis screening in high human immunodeficiency virus prevalence settings: turning promise into reality

E. L. Corbett,*† P. MacPherson†‡

*London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK; †Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme, Blantyre, Malawi; ‡Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Pembroke Place, Liverpool, UK

IN HIGH human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) prevalence settings, population-level tuberculosis (TB) incidence increased in parallel with adult HIV prevalence in the 1990s and remains extremely high, with over 1% of adults diagnosed with TB each year in many Southern African towns.¹ Outbreaks of multi- and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) have been generated in HIV care clinics, and then spread into general communities.²,³ Autopsy studies show that TB is the single biggest killer of people living with HIV (PLHIV), being the cause in 32% to 45% of HIV-related deaths⁴ and with a high proportion of...
fatal cases undiagnosed in life. Of the estimated 430,000 TB-related deaths among PLHIV during 2011, 79% were in Africa. These stark facts demonstrate the urgent need to strengthen TB prevention and care services using all available approaches, including more ambitious TB screening strategies.

TB screening is the first step in both anti-tuberculosis treatment and TB prevention pathways, and has an integral place in routine HIV care and infection control. Key potential entry points for TB screening are illustrated in Figure 1. TB screening can be conducted at the clinic, facility or community level (Table 1), and can be initiated by TB programmes, infection control services in general facilities or HIV testing and care services. Developing and scaling up effective TB screening strategies will ideally follow the same kind of combined approach that has proved effective for HIV testing and counselling (HTC). Diagnostic testing, provider-initiated HTC and promotion of client-initiated testing through ‘know your status’ campaigns in facility- and community-based testing services have led to remarkable progress in universal access to HIV testing and care, with both HIV and TB incidence rates falling regionally. Early HIV detection and antiretroviral therapy (ART) are increasingly being recognised as critical for HIV prevention. Recommendations in the United States are moving towards annual HIV screening for all adults, while in Africa increasing emphasis is placed on home-based testing, due to much higher acceptability and uptake than other modalities.

These ambitious targets and achievements contrast with a more conservative approach to TB screening. Although TB, like HIV, has characteristically prolonged infectiousness before diagnosis that plays a critical role in maintaining transmission in the community, there is no TB equivalent of the rapid diagnostic tests for HIV that provides highly sensitive and specific results within 20 minutes and cost less than US$1. New diagnostics for TB, increasing levels of political commitment to reducing HIV-related TB morbidity and mortality, and the optimism arising from the success of ART scale-up has heightened interest in TB screening, including ‘active’ and ‘intensified’ case-finding approaches in communities.

Figure 1  Patient flow and main entry points into TB screening. HIV entry points (5 and 6) are considered separately from other targeted risk groups, such as household contacts (4). TB screening can be directed against subclinical TB or at early stages of health seeking. TB = tuberculosis; HIV = human immunodeficiency virus; HCW = health care worker.
Table 1  Broad strategies and representative examples of different approaches to providing TB screening with integrated HIV testing and care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>TB-HIV integration</th>
<th>Evidence of population-level impact on epidemiology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Household TB contact tracing</td>
<td>Visit and screen in households or invitation for facility-based screening</td>
<td>Provide early TB detection and TB preventive therapy following close contact Combine with HTC; ideally include home-based initiation of TB and HIV care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Screening and testing for TB in the general community</td>
<td>Outreach mobile services Door-to-door visits Community health worker visits: • As part of annual preventive screen • As part of multi-disease campaigns</td>
<td>Increase completeness of case detection and reduced delay in TB diagnosis Provide HIV testing: to all diagnosed with TB, with symptoms of TB, or as fully integrated TB-HIV screening ideally include home-based initiation of TB and HIV care and prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Testing for HIV in the community, combined with TB screening</td>
<td>As for TB screening above</td>
<td>Provide TB screening during HTC ideally initiate HIV and TB care and prevention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Facilitating access to TB diagnostic services</td>
<td>Sputum collection point Preparation and transportation of slides by CHWs</td>
<td>Avoid need to visit health facility for initial TB diagnosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Raising awareness and community mobilisation</td>
<td>Advertising and media campaigns Engagement through existing community-based organisations</td>
<td>Reduce patient delays in health seeking Increase demand for services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Facility-based screening for HIV and TB</td>
<td>Provider-initiated screening at every patient visit</td>
<td>Existing policy but poorly implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Strengthen general facility-based services</td>
<td>Efficient routine TB-HIV services Use of sensitive TB diagnostics High linkage and retention in care Infection control</td>
<td>Existing policy but poorly implemented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Strengthen HIV care services</td>
<td>Increase coverage of ART Early detection of HIV and treatment Increased use of isoniazid preventive therapy</td>
<td>Highly successful scale-up of HIV care services across Africa coinciding with declining TB incidence rates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TB = tuberculosis; HIV = human immunodeficiency virus; HTC = HIV testing and counseling; ZAMSTAR = Zambia South Africa TB and HIV Reduction; CHW = community health worker; ART = antiretroviral therapy.

SCRENNING FOR TB AS PART OF THE RESPONSE TO TB-HIV IN HIGH HIV PREVALENCE SETTINGS

International policy
International policy is supporting more intensive use of TB screening, with updated recommendations for screening in PLHIV and close contacts of TB patients published by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2012 and guidance encouraging broader consideration of screening in other priority groups, as well as operational research priorities. More definitive TB screening guidelines will be published in 2013 following systematic reviews that have highlighted major evidence gaps but which also stress the need for caution.

Rationale and general principles
The main aims of TB screening are 1) to reduce individual morbidity and mortality through early diagnosis and treatment, 2) to reduce TB transmission by shortening the infectious period (Figure 2) and 3) to exclude TB to allow preventive treatment (such as isoniazid) to be started. In PLHIV, screening also reduces the risk of severe ‘unmasking’ of inflammatory reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS) when starting ART, and may reduce early mortality in the critical ill. TB screening serves to raise awareness of TB symptoms and can have an important ‘indirect’ effect on subsequent health seeking, reducing subsequent patient delays in health seeking as well as providing direct access to diagnosis. This is especially pronounced in community-based interventions, and may have been a major contributor to the success of two recent interventions that reduced undiagnosed infectious TB at the population level. Finally, TB screening has clear opportunities for linkage with HIV testing and care services, as discussed below.
Epidemiology of undiagnosed tuberculosis disease

The target of TB screening is undiagnosed infectious TB, which is still highly prevalent, as summarised in Table 2. Variation between countries is marked and predates the HIV epidemic. Lengthy delays in diagnosis and missed diagnosis are still reported by many HIV-positive and HIV-negative TB patients, despite major investment in strengthening health systems and TB services during the last decade.

Patient delays in seeking care can also be prolonged, particularly among HIV-negative TB patients, for whom recent estimates suggest a mean duration of smear positivity before diagnosis of >1 year in Africa and even longer in many parts of Asia. In contrast, HIV-related TB progresses more rapidly, with a relatively brief duration of infectiousness (mean of a few weeks to months). A substantial percentage of the total burden of undiagnosed smear-positive TB in the general community, the main driver of TB transmission, is thus HIV-negative individuals, even in very high HIV prevalence settings (Table 2 and Figure 3). HIV-related TB, however, dominates the epidemiology of undiagnosed disease in facilities (Table 2).

Undiagnosed infectious TB in HIV-negative individuals is an important control target because of its disproportionate contribution to community transmission, and also due to the high responsiveness to interventions. For example, in Zimbabwe, the prevalence of culture-positive TB fell by 61% in HIV-negative individuals but only 25% in HIV-positive individuals (overall decline 41%) during a 2.5 year intervention based on 6-monthly periodic TB screening in the community targeting individuals with chronic cough and using smear microscopy for diagnosis. By the end of the intervention, most undiagnosed infectious TB was HIV-related (Table 2: study 5), illustrating the need for combined approaches to prevent prolonged transmission from HIV-negative patients and reducing the high incidence of new TB disease among PLWHA.

Whom to target?

Subgroups in whom undiagnosed TB prevalence is consistently ≥1% (number needed to screen [NNTS] of <100 to detect one case of TB if using perfect screening tools), and people being considered for isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) are the natural focus of screening efforts. These include patients...
TB screening in high HIV prevalence settings

Attending HTC clinics or HIV care clinics, 18,37–39 unselected medical admissions and out-patient attendees, 9,38 household contacts of TB patients, 21,40 prisoners, 18 silica-exposed mineworkers, 10 unselected adults in some communities, 12,19,21–23,26 and adult residents volunteering symptoms of TB during surveys or outreach TB screening. Prevalence in adults in the general community and other risk groups, including diabetics, is highly variable and needs local situational analysis to guide planning. 7,34,41–43

Table 2  Prevalence of undiagnosed culture-positive TB in facility- and community-level studies from high HIV prevalence settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author, year, reference</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Pre/post intervention</th>
<th>Culture method</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Culture+ TB %</th>
<th>HIV prevalence % positive*</th>
<th>Infectious TB in HV− participants*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Den Boon, 2006†</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban General</td>
<td>NA LJ</td>
<td>2 608</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1.0 ND</td>
<td>ND ND ND</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wood, 2007†</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban General</td>
<td>Pre MGIT</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>22.8 16.7 25.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middelkoop, 2010†</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban General</td>
<td>Post MGIT</td>
<td>1 259</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>25.0 NS 50.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corbett, 2009†</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Urban General</td>
<td>Pre LJ</td>
<td>10 092</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>21.1 51.3 46.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corbett, 2010†</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Urban General</td>
<td>Post LJ</td>
<td>11 018</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>18.7 39.1 35.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayles, 2009‡</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Urban + rural</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>8 044</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>28.8 59.1 45.6</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>van’t Hoog, 2011‡</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Rural General</td>
<td>NA LJ+MGIT</td>
<td>20 710</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>16.8 NS NS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shapiro, 2012‡</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban General</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>983</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>20.6 100.0 100.0</td>
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<td>Special populations</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Corbett, 2004†</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Mines Miners</td>
<td>NA LJ</td>
<td>1 773</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>26.1 77.8 62.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corbett, 2007†</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Urban Workplace</td>
<td>Post LJ</td>
<td>4 668</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>22.0 66.7 66.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Churchyard, 2012‡</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Mines Miners</td>
<td>Post MGIT</td>
<td>12 606</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>ND ND ND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shapiro, 2012‡</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban TB household</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>2 166</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>21.0 NS NS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility-based</td>
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<tr>
<td>O’Grady, 2012⁹</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Urban Medical admissions</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>65 NS 16.2</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoffman, 2013‡</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>17 urban clinics</td>
<td>Antenatal clinic HIV+</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>1 403</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>100 NA NA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV care clinics</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shah, 2009§</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Urban Voluntary counselling and testing clinic</td>
<td>NA LJ</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>100 NA NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn, 2009§</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban ART clinic</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>100 NA NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cain, 2010§</td>
<td>South East Asia</td>
<td>Urban HIV clinic</td>
<td>NA LJ+MGIT</td>
<td>1 724</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>100 NA NA</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassett, 2010§</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Urban HIV clinic</td>
<td>NA MGIT</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>100 NA NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HIV prevalence refers to % positive in those consenting to be tested. ND = HIV testing not done as part of prevalence survey.
† Repeated prevalence surveys in the same South African township before and after scale-up of facility-based HIV testing and care services, including ART clinic and TB screening as part of infection control and HIV care.
‡ Before-and-after prevalence surveys in population provided with six rounds of periodic TB screening in the community.
§ Surveys for undiagnosed TB in household contacts and controls from the same South African community.
¶ Prevalence surveys following 2 years of promoting HIV testing and provision of easy access to culture-based TB diagnosis and radiological diagnosis of patients with suspected smear-negative TB through workplace-based primary care clinics.
# Survey for undiagnosed TB in goldminers following a randomised trial of community-wide isoniazid preventive therapy. Results include both arms.
TB = tuberculosis; HIV = human immunodeficiency virus; + = positive; − = negative; NA = not applicable; LJ = Löwenstein-Jensen; ND = not done; MGIT = Mycobacterial Growth Indicator Tube; NS = not stated.
The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

Symptom than the main contributor to TB transmission in communities.35,44

OPTIMAL SCREENING STRATEGIES FOR DIFFERENT PRIORITY GROUPS

TB screening has a number of different goals and entry points (Figures 1 and 2) affecting where, how and how often screening should be carried out. For instance, prevention of mortality is the overriding goal when screening acutely ill in-patients, and ideally requires diagnostics able to rapidly detect disseminated HIV-related TB (Figure 2). At the other extreme, interventions aimed at reducing transmission in the general community need to detect infectious participants affordably and efficiently (Figure 2). Critical decisions include which algorithm to use, and whether or not to screen for subclinical TB. Following the general principals of screening, sensitive screening tests should be confirmed by a highly specific test.45 As no current TB screening algorithm is ideal, compromises have to be made.46,47 In practice, TB screening usually starts with either symptoms or X-ray,48 although there is increasing use of Xpert® MTB/RIF (Cepheid, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) as both initial and confirmatory test.9,49–51

The performance of all tests tends to be less good due to lower sensitivity when used for screening than for patient-initiated diagnostic testing, as the spectrum of undiagnosed disease detected is shifted towards earlier, paucibacillary cases (Figures 2 and 3): this includes culture, smear microscopy and Xpert.30,41,49,50,52–54 There is considerable incremental yield from combining different tests, or repeating the same test on different specimens.30,53,55 All tests also have relatively low positive predictive value when used for screening, due to the lower prevalence of true disease.

Symptom screening

TB symptoms are the most common first step in TB screening, and may currently be the only feasible option in many settings. However, undiagnosed TB can occur without any reported TB symptoms and, irrespective of HIV status, less than half of culture-positive participants have the ‘hallmark’ symptom of prolonged cough.18 In a meta-analysis of data from 8148 PLHIV screened using culture, prolonged cough was reported by 1530 (20.0%) participants and identified 260 (52.5%) culture-positive participants, while one or more of the four symptoms (cough, fever, night sweats or weight loss) was reported by 3563 (46.6%) participants, including 418 (84.4%) with confirmed TB.18

Subclinical tuberculosis

Subclinical TB (culture-positive TB with none of the above four symptoms) is consistently identified whenever screening is carried out. In very high transmission settings, including household contacts and newly diagnosed patients attending HIV care clinics, numbers of patients with subclinical culture-positive disease can exceed symptomatic cases, and reach very high rates (up to 15%).18,31,50,56 However, the consequences of missing subclinical TB disease need to be weighed against the expense and consequences of

Figure 3 Possible patterns of disease progression and onset of infectiousness. TB screening gains in terms of secondary infections averted and ease of diagnosis (sensitivity of diagnostic tools) will depend on the pattern of onset of infectiousness relative to symptoms, and how the screen is targeted. Screening may detect patients who are in the process of self cure following transient culture positivity. Adapted from Dowdy et al.36 TB = tuberculosis.
more systematic screening of all suspects. For example, adding extra steps in an already tortuous patient pathway could increase loss to care.

Individual consequences of missing subclinical active TB include IRIS, which is rarely fatal, although extremely unpleasant and disruptive to HIV care.\textsuperscript{57,58} Inappropriate isoniazid monotherapy may even be lifesaving in HIV-positive patients with difficult-to-diagnose TB,\textsuperscript{39} and there is no clear evidence of increasing drug resistance.\textsuperscript{60,61} The extent to which subclinical TB contributes to overall TB transmission is unclear,\textsuperscript{36} and will depend on how infectiousness relates to symptoms (Figure 3). Local TB epidemiology can be dominated by stable, minimally symptomatic but highly infectious ‘super-spreaders’,\textsuperscript{62} but this does not appear to be a common phenotype,\textsuperscript{26} and pronounced reductions in undiagnosed TB at the population level can be achieved without systematic screening for subclinical TB.\textsuperscript{7,11,12}

Radiological screening
Chest radiography (CXR) provides the opportunity for high-volume TB screening, and is increasingly feasible due to digital technology. Computer-aided diagnostics,\textsuperscript{63} validated reading and scoring systems,\textsuperscript{64} remote reading and lay readers\textsuperscript{65,66} are all under active investigation. CXR is already part of the adult and paediatric TB diagnostic algorithms, and combines high sensitivity with reasonably high specificity.\textsuperscript{65,67,68} Immediate decisions on the need for confirmatory testing and follow-up can be made by trained readers,\textsuperscript{64,66} as exemplified by outreach interventions among hard-to-reach risk groups in Europe.\textsuperscript{65,69} HIV immunosuppression affects radiological manifestations of TB; low sensitivity has been reported in clinic-based screening,\textsuperscript{30,70} but not in community-based studies.\textsuperscript{48} Two studies from Botswana reported a low-to-modest yield and high incremental cost of adding CXR to clinic-based symptom screening.\textsuperscript{71–73} The main barriers to use are the high capital costs, radiation hazard and lack of skill base in Africa.

New tuberculosis diagnostics for tuberculosis screening
Xpert and urinary lipoarabamannan (LAM) antigen detection are both new diagnostics being used for TB screening, mainly in the context of HIV care. The development and roll-out of the Xpert platform is a major breakthrough for the diagnosis and management of HIV-related TB and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) that was endorsed by the WHO in 2010.\textsuperscript{74} It has increased sensitivity compared to smear microscopy, and has led to a clinically important decrease in time to diagnosis and treatment initiation in self-presenting patients with suspected TB. The sensitivity of Xpert compared to culture is highest in hospital in-patients with TB symptoms (82–91%).\textsuperscript{75}

Data on the use of Xpert as a TB screening tool in high HIV prevalence populations are currently limited to four studies (Table 3);\textsuperscript{49,50,51} however, these numbers are likely to increase rapidly. Excluding one very small study of five culture-positive cases, the sensitivity of Xpert compared to culture was lower when used for diagnostic testing (range 58.3–88.2%), but much more sensitive than smear microscopy (sensitivity range 17.6–52.8%). Use of Xpert for routine diagnostic testing is likely to be cost-effective in many settings;\textsuperscript{56,77} however, affordability, limited throughput capacity and substantially lower sensitivity than culture and CXR may restrict the widespread adoption of this test for screening to specified high TB prevalence groups, such as PLHIV, facility attendees and close contacts, and to confirmatory testing after CXR or symptom screen. More research is needed to define sensitivity, specificity and feasibility in these groups.

LAM is a Mycobacterium tuberculosis cell-wall polysaccharide that can be detected in the urine of TB patients, and is now available as a point-of-care lateral flow assay.\textsuperscript{29} It is a useful screening test in PLHIV with advanced immunosuppression, diagnosing disseminated disease that tends to smear-negative. Its low sensitivity and suboptimal specificity limit the value of the test in patients with CD4 count of >200 cells/mm.\textsuperscript{29} LAM has marked prognostic significance predictive of high mortality, and a number of clinical trials are ongoing in South Africa and Uganda.

**MANAGEMENT OF HIV AND TUBERCULOSIS IN SCREENING PARTICIPANTS**

**Integrating TB screening with HIV testing and care**
TB screening during HIV care (Figure 1) is a high priority from multiple different perspectives, and the

### Table 3 Use of Xpert® MTB/RIF for screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Screening population</th>
<th>% positive</th>
<th>Culture-positive</th>
<th>Sensitivity of smear microscopy</th>
<th>Sensitivity of Xpert® MTB/RIF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawn, 2012\textsuperscript{22}</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>ART clinic</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>22.2 (13.3–33.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Grady, 2012\textsuperscript{24}</td>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Medical admissions able to produce sputum</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>52.8 (45.1–60.4): HIV+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dormian, 2012\textsuperscript{49}</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Prevalence survey</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>6893</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>17.6 (12.5–23.9): HIV+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ntinginya 2012\textsuperscript{51}</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Household contacts</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>60.0 (14.7–94.7): HIV−</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIV = human immunodeficiency virus; ART = antiretroviral therapy; ND = not done.
subject of recent comprehensive and systematic reviews.18,75 Screening newly diagnosed PLHIV targets a patient group with a high prevalence of undiagnosed TB disease, indications for IPT, high vulnerability to rapidly progressive TB with a fatal outcome and collective vulnerability to nosocomial transmission through a shared respiratory contact network at the HIV care clinic. Intensive TB screening with Xpert MTB/RIF and culture can increase pre-ART identification of TB patients dramatically,30,31,39,50,78 leading to a low incidence of TB in the subsequent 12 months. Tests with pronounced prognostic significance include detectable bacilli or antigen in urine or blood which identify individuals with high risk of early death.39,55

How best to integrate HIV testing and care into TB screening interventions delivered outside of HIV programmes is less well defined. At a minimum, it is essential to confirm positive TB screening results and ensure that patients are promptly linked into TB care, with diagnostic HIV testing offered to all TB patients and participants with TB symptoms. As routine programmes lose about 15% of their newly diagnosed smear-positive TB patients and over 70% of newly diagnosed HIV-positive patients before any treatment is provided, care needs to be taken to avoid loss to follow-up between diagnosis and treatment. Loss to follow-up can be much higher when the diagnosis is made outside the routine setting, undermining the effectiveness of TB-HIV screening.41

ART is by far the most effective method of preventing HIV-related TB, with a 65% reduction in incidence, rising to 84% if the CD4 count is <200 cells/mm.11,79 Irrespective of their final diagnosis, people identified as having symptoms of TB have a high probability of being HIV-infected,22,80 being unaware of their HIV status, being eligible for ART,80 and having a high risk of death if their HIV is not promptly diagnosed and treated.80-83 Indeed, in settings with generalised HIV epidemics, the NNTS to identify one patient with undiagnosed HIV infection, a high rate of smear-negative TB diagnosis, and high mortality at 12 months during a period of very limited access to ART.80

**Tuberculosis Screening Using Different Tuberculosis Entry Points**

**Community-based screening for tuberculosis regardless of symptoms (entry points 1 to 3)**

Community-based TB screening has not been included in international recommendations for TB control for several decades.88 Before the mid-1970s, radiological screening was widely implemented, but without clear demonstration of its impact on TB epidemiology or individual benefit.44,88 Mobile radiography is still used in some European towns to screen high-risk groups such as the homeless and drug users, with acceptable NNNTs and cost-effectiveness.85,69

The South African mining industry has used annual screening since the 1930s. The onset of the HIV epidemic was associated with decreasing proportions of TB in miners diagnosed using annual CXR screening.67 TB found using screening had lower case fatality rates: an individually randomised trial of 6-monthly vs. the standard of care 12-monthly CXR screening was widely implemented, but without clear demonstration of its impact on TB epidemiology or individual benefit.88 Before the mid-1970s, radiological screening was widely implemented, but without clear demonstration of its impact on TB epidemiology or individual benefit.44,88 Mobile radiography is still used in some European towns to screen high-risk groups such as the homeless and drug users, with acceptable NNNTs and cost-effectiveness.85,69

**Outreach tuberculosis screening in general communities (entry points 2 and 3)**

Outreach interventions in general communities also show promise. Here the aim is to provide access to diagnosis of symptomatic TB in the community. Studies in Zimbabwe and South Africa have shown high uptake, with 2–5% smear positivity prevalence in...
participants. Epidemiological impact was assessed in a cluster randomised trial, with 46 neighbourhoods in Harare, Zimbabwe (DETECTB) randomised to six rounds of 6-monthly active case finding using door-to-door enquiry for chronic cough in the household or mobile van with loudspeakers. Participants provided sputum for smear microscopy results. Smear-positive TB case notification rates increased substantially in both arms, with the mobile van arm diagnosing the most smear-positive TB. There was a substantial and highly significant reduction in population-level culture-positive TB (before:after adjusted reduction of 41% over 2.5 years, from 7.9 per 1000 adult residents). An estimated 15–25% of undiagnosed smear-positive residents were diagnosed at each intervention round, despite the intrinsic limitations of using a low sensitivity screening algorithm (chronic cough and microscopy).

In contrast, a large cluster multifactorial randomised trial of 24 communities in Zambia and South Africa provided with 3 years of 1) enhanced case finding (ECF) in the community, and 2) household intervention, did not show any epidemiological benefit from the ECF intervention despite considerable participation. DETECTB and ZAMSTAR (Zambia South Africa TB and HIV Reduction) ECF were complex interventions with several differences: there was less focus on direct sputum collection in ZAMSTAR-ECF, and DETECTB included dedicated follow-up clinics for smear-negative patients and active tracing of smear-positive patients.

TB REACH, a case-finding initiative funded by the Canadian International Development Agency and coordinated by the WHO, is also providing numerous examples of highly successful TB screening interventions, including a number of interventions using Xpert supported by UNITAID. So far the emphasis has been on increasing case detection, rather than follow-up, to show declining TB incidence trends.

Combined TB-HIV household contact tracing interventions (entry point 4)

Household contacts of TB patients are at high risk for undiagnosed TB, with two recent meta-analyses reporting a median yield of undiagnosed TB of 3.1% and 4.5%. Pronounced heterogeneity by region and screening algorithms was noted, with one recent study showing very high rates of subclinical culture-positive disease (Shapiro in Table 2).

According to conventional wisdom, intensive household contact tracing has limited potential to affect TB epidemiology, although of high individual benefit, as only about 10% of TB patients report household TB exposure. However, this has been challenged by a recent study (ZAMSTAR) that showed significant (22%) reduction in undiagnosed culture-positive TB in the general community through a cluster randomised trial that combined TB screening, HIV testing and prevention counselling in Zambia and South Africa (ZAMSTAR Household Arm). The intervention was intensive, with three separate visits over the course of 12 months. Fitting of mathematical models to trial data suggests diffusion of indirect benefits beyond households directly covered by the intervention. The major challenge of timely contact screening is the need for efficient communications, transportation and a means of interacting with the community.

Broader facility-based tuberculosis screening (entry point 5)

Relatively few studies have assessed systematic screening of general out-patient clinic or primary care clinic attendees for TB in HIV-prevalent settings; however, there are many reasons for prioritising intensified screening for this entry point: first, it is a natural extension of TB screening provided in HIV care settings, as general clinic attendees have high HIV prevalence and high rates of undiagnosed TB. Second, it is an opportunity to strengthen provider-initiated HTC and numerous studies have shown poor identification and management of people with TB symptoms in routine systems. Finally, screening all facility attendees for cough is already part of infection control policy. A recent intervention in the low HIV prevalence country of Pakistan greatly increased case notification rates using lay volunteers to provide out-patient screening, based around a mobile phone system for communication and payment of incentives.

Facility-based interventions have the potential for population-level impact if they are implemented well enough. The first clear example of this was from Cape Town, South Africa, where a substantial fall in undiagnosed TB was reported for a community served by an unusually strong TB-HIV health clinic.

COSTS, COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND MATHEMATICAL MODELLING OF TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING INTERVENTIONS

An increasing number of studies are estimating full screening costs and the cost-effectiveness of TB screening. Costs per participant found to have TB are higher for TB screening than for patient-initiated diagnosis: for example, US$1117 per patient in a South African community-based TB screening intervention and approximately US$809 under the various interventions funded through the TB REACH initiative. However, these estimates do not include costs averted, for example, from managing patients found at an earlier stage of disease, nor from episodes of disease and death averted. Costs incurred through false-positive diagnoses also need to be included. Even relatively small per-patient costs will require substantial additional funding to be affordable by national TB control programmes in low-income countries.
countries. Effective targeting to high TB prevalence risk groups and populations will be critical for maximising cost-effectiveness.

**KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES IN TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING**

Major gaps in our knowledge remain. For community-based interventions, these gaps lie in some critical areas. It is still unclear to what extent TB screening can contribute to reduced TB transmission, and, if so, how intensively, how often and for how long TB screening interventions have to be delivered before appreciable gains are seen. The nature and impact of critical health system constraints is also poorly defined, as are individual risks and benefits from TB screening, both for PLHIV and for HIV-negative participants.

Addressing our current knowledge gaps requires operational and public health research with appropriate impact evaluation, and linked mathematical and economic modelling. Understanding the impact of screening on ’patient-important outcomes’ such as survival and well-being, and population-level epidemiological impact are critical in guiding choices and investment. Mathematical modelling can identify and clarify important key principles, identify misconceptions, constraints and theoretical limitations, as well as being a tool to guide realistic study design, cost-effectiveness and provide fuller analysis and projection of real-life data.

Among our most pressing needs are new diagnostics: a highly sensitive, portable, low-cost, point-of-care diagnostic able to ’rule out’ TB effectively would revolutionise TB screening at all levels of the health system and community and allow rapid scale-up of HIV testing. Furthermore, tools to enable efficient population-level impact evaluation, such as robust and low-cost tests for recent TB infection able to evaluate transmission rates in communities and quantify facility-level infection control are desperately needed (Table 4).

### Table 4 Approaches to impact evaluation for TB screening interventions (adapted from 102)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact being evaluated</th>
<th>Study designs</th>
<th>Expected outputs and examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any high-risk group</td>
<td>Cross-sectional studies evaluating new TB diagnostics</td>
<td>Estimates sensitivity and specificity; can inform on robustness of new diagnostic systems in resource-poor settings. Provides number-needed-to-screen per TB patient diagnosed in different populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV care clinics and household contacts</td>
<td>Cohort studies comparing outcomes according to whether or not/how screened</td>
<td>Outcomes post-screening can include numbers diagnosed with TB at and after screen, vital status, retention in care, time to TB treatment. Cost effectiveness and consequences of false-negative and false-positive screening results can also be assessed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct cohort follow-up to evaluate patient-important outcomes following screening</td>
<td>Appropriate comparator populations provided by randomisation (e.g., step-wedge), or historical or non-randomly selected comparison cohorts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Well-defined high TB incidence populations</td>
<td>Time trend analysis for:</td>
<td>Need accurate routine case notification system; can be confounded by other changes in routine TB diagnosis/reporting. Requires disaggregation of routine case notification data to subdistrict level (unless intervention is district-wide).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time trends in TB case notification rates compared to non-intervention comparator populations</td>
<td>a) initial peak in case notifications attributable to screening, and ‘additionality’ compared to comparator and historic trends. b) post-peak accelerated rate of decline in new cases.</td>
<td>Need complete TB registration and outcome data for diagnosed TB deaths. Accurate capture of undiagnosed TB deaths requires autopsy. Change/difference in undiagnosed TB provides outcome (less is always better). Several recent examples. Before-after change does not prove causality; aim for major change in short time period to provide strongest evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time trends in deaths from diagnosed/undiagnosed TB</td>
<td>Aiming for reduced diagnosed +/− undiagnosed TB deaths ideally routine as well as intervention participants.</td>
<td>Evidence of impact on TB transmission is an ideal outcome, but difficult to measure and so not often evaluated in high TB incidence settings; results affected by HIV status. One recent example used an incidence cohort design in schoolchildren.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence surveys for undiagnosed TB in the general population</td>
<td>Repeated before-after, or cluster-randomised cross-sectional outcomes. Requires very large sample sizes and consistent survey methods.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB transmission rates</td>
<td>Before-after estimates, or cluster-randomised cohort or cross-sectional outcomes; requires large sample sizes and consistent methods.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB prevalence in HIV-infected patients</td>
<td>Assessed through repeated before-after design, regular surveillance with time trends, or cluster-randomised cross-sectional outcomes. New clinic attendees, or routine post-mortem.</td>
<td>A key indicator of population-level TB control, and also the main target of prevention for TB-HIV interventions. Occurs at high prevalence and clearly linked to TB transmission.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TB = Tuberculosis; HIV = human immunodeficiency virus.
Without a TB equivalent for HIV-incidence assays, large cohorts, repeated cross-sectional measurements or analysis of time trends in TB incidence are required to measure trends in TB control (Table 4). These are not only expensive, but also often fail to deliver clear answers due to the logistical difficulties of this kind of indirect evaluation. Demonstration projects providing high-intensity, high-coverage combined TB-HIV screening interventions could provide relatively rapid insight into which approaches to TB screening are most effective in very high TB incidence settings. Both facility- and community-based interventions need to be investigated for their acceptability and potential impact on the population, including settings with high MDR-TB rates.\textsuperscript{84,107} Intervention design should resist the temptation to over-emphasise sustainability and test low-intensity complex interventions without first establishing effectiveness.

Without clear evidence to guide policy and practice, resources may be wasted on ineffective interventions, and, conversely, the value of effective interventions may be grossly under-estimated. The need to establish effectiveness is most pressing for community-wide interventions, where costs and potential harms, but also potential benefits, are at their highest, and where contemporary examples with impact evaluation have given conflicting results.\textsuperscript{7,43}

Important operational questions include linkage and retention in TB-HIV care when screening individuals not already in chronic care services. Health systems research priorities include the feasibility of provider-initiated TB and HIV screening at the facility level, and models of delivering interventions through community-directed approaches.\textsuperscript{96,108,109}

**CONCLUSIONS**

In high HIV prevalence settings with high rates of morbidity and mortality from TB, the evidence for pursuing much bolder TB screening policy and practice is compelling, despite high cost and many remaining unknowns. Facility-based TB screening and screening of household contacts should be greatly intensified, while developing evidence around community-based interventions. As with HIV testing, a combination approach adapted to the local epidemiology will be needed. Gains from each TB infection averted are unusually high in the highly vulnerable HIV-infected members of the community, and the costs of TB screening are small compared to expenditure on HIV care.

Effective intervention with the limited diagnostics available today will have to start without clear evidence, but with investment in research to support impact evaluation, ideally at individual, clinic, facility and population level. More innovative approaches to defining and responding to needs include, for example, combined surveillance-response strategies used for targeting efforts against other major infectious diseases.\textsuperscript{110} Geospatial and molecular epidemiology could allow us to capitalise on existing epidemiological, demographic, health service resource usage data.\textsuperscript{111}

Combined TB and HIV interventions are essential if any gains made through TB screening are to be maintained in high HIV prevalence settings, and they require joint planning, implementation and financing from the early stages of planning. Effective linkage to treatment and prevention of both TB and HIV needs to be the focus of special attention for both TB and HIV screening. We cannot continue to tolerate high rates of undiagnosed TB in communities and health facilities, but need to act in proportion to the threat to health and wellbeing: the magnitude and consequences of XDR-TB and MDR-TB epidemics in South Africa provide a graphic illustration of the huge cost of failure to implement effective TB and HIV screening and care.

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En 20 años de tasas de incidencia muy altas de tuberculosis (TB) y de alta mortalidad TB en los países con alta prevalencia de infección por el virus de la inmunodeficiencia humana (VIH), las iniciativas emprendidas están muy lejos de corresponder en magnitud ni amplitud a las respuestas que se observan en los programas contra malaria o el VIH. Por el contrario, las recomendaciones se han centrado en las personas que acuden a los centros de atención de salud por síntomas indicativos de TB o en busca de pruebas diagnósticas o atención de la infección por el VIH. Sin embargo, se asiste a un aumento de la inversión y a la ampliación de escala de los servicios que se ocupan de estas enfermedades, los casos de TB que se pasan por alto en la comunidad siguen siendo muy frecuentes, lo cual indica que el diagnóstico es aún demasiado lento e insuficiente. Esta situación favorece la persistencia de altos índices de transmisión y expone a las personas infectadas por el VIH a altas tasas de morbimidad y mortalidad.

Una intensificación de la detección sistemática de la TB con definiciones más amplias de las poblaciones destinatarias, indicaciones extendidas de ejecución en los centros sanitarios y por fuera de los mismos y una selección apropiada de nuevos instrumentos diagnósticos ofrece una perspectiva de mejoramiento rápido del control de la TB en la población. El principal freno al logro de esta meta sigue siendo la precisión diagnóstica de algoritmos adaptados (con alta productividad).

En el presente artículo se analizan los datos científicos existentes, con el propósito de orientar la ampliación de la detección sistemática de la TB en los entornos con alta prevalencia de infección por el VIH, idealmente mediante intervenciones combinadas contra la TB y el VIH que ofrezcan la detección de ambas enfermedades y fomenten al máximo la utilización de los servicios de atención y prevención. Lo ideal sería practicar las pruebas diagnósticas, tratar y prevenir la TB y la infección por el VIH de manera exhaustiva, por conducto de una oferta de detección conjunta, a todos los usuarios de los establecimientos de atención sanitaria en las comunidades que presentan el mayor riesgo de transmisión. Sin embargo, el progreso se ve obstaculizado por medios diagnósticos inadecuados, un financiamiento insuficiente y la escasez de datos sobre la repercusión en las poblaciones. En el presente análisis se examinan las investigaciones recientes pertinentes que han puesto de manifiesto la gran necesidad de evaluar de las posibles ventajas y los inconvenientes de la ampliación y la intensificación de la detección de la TB en los entornos con alta prevalencia de infección por el VIH.