

Phenotypic and genotypic drug sensitivity of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex isolated from South Omo Zone, Southern Ethiopia

Biniam Wondale^{1,2}
Girmay Medhin¹
Gemed Abebe³
Samuel Tolosa¹
Temesgen Mohammed¹
Takele Teklu^{1,4}
Rembert Pieper⁵
Gobena Ameni¹

¹Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology, Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; ²Department of Biology, Arba Minch University, Arba Minch, Ethiopia; ³Mycobacteriology Research Center, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia; ⁴Department of Immunology and Molecular Biology, University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia; ⁵J. Craig Venter Institute, Rockville, MD, USA

Background: Knowledge of drug-sensitivity patterns of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) strains isolated from patients is an important aspect of TB control strategy. This study was conducted to evaluate the drug sensitivity of MTBC isolates in South Omo, southern Ethiopia.

Materials and methods: A total of 161 MTBC isolates (153 from new cases and eight re-treatment TB cases) were isolated using Lowenstein Jensen medium of which 126 isolates were able to be tested for drug sensitivity by BACTEC™MGIT™ 960 system, while all the 161 isolates were tested by GenoType® MTBDRplus VER 2.0. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression were used to express and present results.

Results: On the basis of MGIT 960 system, the prevalence of mono-resistance was 9.2% (11/119) in the new cases, although neither poly-resistance nor multidrug resistance (MDR) was recorded in these cases. On the basis of GenoType MTBDRplus assay, two of the 153 isolates (1.3%) of the new cases were mono-resistant for rifampicin (RIF) and one of these isolates had known *rpoB* gene mutation (H526D). One of the eight (12.5%) isolates obtained from the re-treatment cases was MDR with *rpoB* gene mutation (D516V) and *katG* gene mutation (S315T2). Taking MGIT 960 system as a gold standard, the sensitivities of the MTBDRplus assay were 33.3%, 100% and 100% for detection of resistance to isoniazid, RIF and MDR, respectively. On the other hand, its specificities were 99.2%, 100% and 100% for detection of resistance to RIF, isoniazid and MDR, respectively.

Conclusion: The magnitude of drug resistance was relatively low in the new TB cases of South Omo as compared to the reports from the other regions of the country. This is encouraging and hence the TB Control Program in the Zone should strengthen its program so that the emergence of drug resistance is inhibited.

Keywords: drug resistance, MTBDRplus, MGIT 960

Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC). It is one of the leading causes of deaths from single infectious diseases and ninth from any cause of deaths worldwide.¹ The therapeutic effectiveness of agents plays a very crucial role in the control of TB. The discovery of effective TB treatment, streptomycin (STR) in 1940s^{2,3} to rifampicin (RIF) in 1960s,^{4,5} made experts in the area to feel that it is time to end TB. But the emergence of resistant strains of *M. tuberculosis* has created a major threat to the control of TB.⁶ Multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB) has reached to epidemic proportions in some countries.⁷

Globally, the proportions of MDR/RIF-resistant TB were estimated to be 4.1% in new TB cases and 19.0% in previously treated TB cases in 2016.¹ About 6.2% MDR-TB

Correspondence: Biniam Wondale
Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology,
Addis Ababa University, PO Box 1176,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel +251 91 138 3337
Email biniamw2005@yahoo.com

cases were extensively drug resistant (XDR)-TB.¹ Ethiopia stands 14th among the 30 high MDR-TB burden countries.¹ Early detection of drug resistance is essential for appropriate treatment and prevention of further spread of resistant strains.⁸ However, drug sensitivity test (DST) is not accessible to all TB patients in Ethiopia due to inadequate laboratory capacity, inadequate transport network and resource limitation.^{9,10} Phenotypic DST is considered as the gold standard but it is done in limited laboratories in Ethiopia. Accordingly, 10.0% of pulmonary MDR-TB cases were detected and the patients received treatment.¹¹ The remaining 90% were most likely undiagnosed and being a source of infection or started treatment based on patient history. Therefore, strengthening the DST in the country is important.

Liquid culture: BACTEC MGIT 960 system¹² and molecular techniques including GenoTypeMTBDRplus¹³ and Gene Xpert MTB/RIF,¹⁴ can detect drug resistance easier and faster. The presence of a mutation in *rpoB* gene¹⁵ leads to resistance for RIF and mutations in *inhA* gene¹⁶ and/or in *katG* gene¹⁷ lead to resistance for isoniazid (INH). BACTEC MGIT System, GeneXpert MTB/RIF and GenoTypeMTBDRplus assays are recently introduced in Ethiopia and are used for the detection of MDR-TB in selected health facilities and research centers. Although molecular assays can rapidly detect MTBC and mutation associated with drug resistance in a day(s), it should be complemented by phenotypic DST.¹⁸

Surveillance of drug-resistant TB in a population of specific localities such as South Omo Zone, which is a pastoral area and located at the periphery in the southern Ethiopia, has a crucial role to optimize drug treatment and to tackle the dissemination of resistant MTBC strains in the area. Therefore, this study was carried out with the objective of evaluating drug sensitivity of MTBC isolated from South Omo, southern Ethiopia using MGIT 960 system and GenoType MTBDRplus assay.

Materials and methods

Study setting

South Omo Zone is located in southern Ethiopia and borders Kenya and South Sudan^{19,20} and consists of eight districts and one city administration (Jinka). Zone is situated at 4.43°–6.46° latitude and 35.79°–36.06° longitude. According to the 2007 census, the total population of Zone was 577,673 (7.5% urban and 92.5% rural) of whom 50% were men.²¹ Jinka General Hospital (JGH) is the only Hospital in Zone and has been functional since April 2001.²² JGH provides health services for about 1,000,000 people from its catchment area in and outside the Zone. JGH was the main sample collec-

tion site. Human subject recruitment and sample collection were also conducted in 12 other health centers from different districts using community-based screening.

Ethical clearance

Ethical clearance was obtained from Aklilu Lemma Institute of Pathobiology, Addis Ababa University (ALIPB-AAU) Institutional Review Board (ref. no. ALIPB/IRB/22-B/2012/13) and the National Research Ethics Committee (ref no. 3.10/785/07). Permission to conduct the study was also obtained from South Omo Zone Health Department. Written informed consent was obtained from study participants.

MTBC Isolates

The TB molecular epidemiological study was undertaken in South Omo Zone from September 2014 to May 2016. A total of 1200 sputum and fine needle aspirate samples were collected from TB cases and TB-suspected individuals in health centers through screening of the community. All 1200 samples were cultured on Lowenstein Jensen medium, yielding 201 acid fast bacilli (AFB) isolates of which 161 were part of the MTBC. Twenty-eight isolates were non-tuberculosis mycobacteria and 12 isolates were not members of the genus *Mycobacterium*. The AFB isolates were differentiated into three groups using region difference-based PCR^{9,23} and genus typing multiplex PCR.²⁴ In addition, the species were identified based on the spoligotyping pattern according to Kamerbeek et al.²⁵ MTBC isolates were stored in freezing medium and their DNA was extracted in dH₂O. For DST analysis, the frozen suspension of the MTBC isolates were thawed and tested for DST using the BACTEC MGIT 960 system. Additionally, the frozen DNA of MTBC isolates were tested for DST using the GenoType MTBDRplus assay.

Phenotypic DST for first-line drugs using the BACTEC MGIT 960 system

Phenotypic DST of MTBC isolates to the first-line drugs was done using BD BACTECTM MGITTM 960 system in the Mycobacteriology Research Center at Jimma University (MRC-JU). The BACTEC MGITTM (Becton Dickinson, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA). Procedure was followed as described in its manual.²⁶ The frozen MTBC isolates were thawed and then 100 µL of aliquots was added into 2 mL of phosphate-buffered saline and processed for decontamination using equal volume of 2.9% sodium citrate and 4% sodium hydroxide solution. Thereafter, the decontaminated

suspension of isolates was cultured using the MGIT 960 system. Lyophilized preparations of the antibiotic drugs of MGIT 960 SIRE kit and pyrazinamide (PZA) kit were reconstituted in sterile dH₂O. Final concentrations of STR 1.0 µg/mL, INH 0.1 µg/mL, RIF 1.0 µg/mL, ethambutol (EMB) 5.0 µg/mL and PZA 100.0 µg/mL were used. A growth control (GC) tube without drug was included for each isolate. The relative growth ratio between the drug-containing tube and GC tube was determined by the BD BACTEC™ MGIT™ 960 system's software algorithm when 400 growth units for the GC tube were reached. DST results were reported qualitatively. Quality control was maintained by testing the batch of MGIT medium, SIRE Kit and PZA kit using the strain *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv.

Detection of RIF and INH resistance using GenoType® MTBDRplus assay

The identification of genotypic drug resistance to RIF (based on mutations the *rpoB* gene) and INH (based on mutations in *katG* and *inhA* genes) was carried out using the manufacturer's instruction²⁷ in the TB Laboratory at ALIPB-AAU. Accordingly, 50 µL of PCR mixture consisting of 10 µL AM-A GT MTBDRplus ver 2.0, 35 µL AM-B GT MTBDRplus ver 2.0 and 5µL DNA template from an isolate was used to perform this assay. *M. tuberculosis* H₃₇Rv DNA template was used as a positive control. Water (Qiagen NV, Venlo, the Netherlands, product) served as a negative control. A thermal cycler (VWR, Leicestershire, UK) was programmed as follows: 15 min for enzyme activation at 95°C followed by 10 cycles of 30 sec denaturation at 95°C,

2 min annealing at 58°C, 20 cycles of 25 sec denaturation at 95°C, 40 sec annealing at 53°C, 40 sec elongation at 70°C, and finally elongation at 70°C for 8 min. Biotin-labeled amplicons were hybridized to DNA probes attached to a DNA strip®. Hybridization was done using the TwinCubator (Hain Lifescience, Nehren, Germany). Results were interpreted based on the presence and absence of wild-type (WT) and mutation (MUT) probes.

Data analysis

Data analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 20. Descriptive summaries are presented in Tables 1 and 2. Performance of the MTBDRplus assay in the diagnosis of RIF and INH resistance was evaluated taking results from the MGIT 960 test as gold standard. The association between drug resistance and other independent variables was evaluated using logistic regression models. *P*-values of less than 0.05 were considered as statistically significant.

Results

Demographic and clinical characteristics of study participants

Demographic and clinical characteristics of the 161 study participants are summarized in Table 1. About 40% of the study participants were females. The age range of the study participants varied from 15 to 80 years with a mean and SD of 33.2 and 13.1 years, respectively. The majority (82%) of the participants were in the age range between 15 and 44 years. Age (*P*=0.017) and type of TB (*P*=0.005) were significantly associated with residential place.

Table 1 Demographic and clinical characteristics of study participants

Characteristics	Total N (%)	Number (%) of study participants			P-value
		Non-pastoral	Pastoral	Unspecified	
Sex					
Female	64 (39.8)	30 (42.9)	26 (36.6)	8 (40.0)	0.751
Male	97 (60.2)	40 (57.1)	45 (63.4)	12 (60.0)	
Age in years					
15–29	72 (44.7)	32 (45.7)	34 (47.9)	6 (30.0)	0.017
30–44	60 (37.3)	28 (40.0)	19 (26.8)	13 (65.0)	
45+	29 (18.0)	10 (14.3)	18 (25.4)	1 (5.0)	
Type of TB					
PTB+	110 (68.3)	48 (68.6)	49 (69.0)	13 (65.0)	0.005
PTB–	25 (15.5)	5 (7.1)	13 (18.3)	7 (35.0)	
EPTB	26 (16.1)	17 (24.3)	9 (12.7)	0 (0.0)	
Treatment history					
New TB case	153 (95.0)	68 (97.1)	65 (91.5)	20 (100.0)	0.171
TB re-treatment case	8 (5.0)	2 (2.9)	6 (8.5)	0 (0.0)	
Total	161 (100)	70 (43.5)	71 (44.1)	20 (12.4)	

Abbreviations: TB, tuberculosis; PTB+, smear-positive pulmonary TB; PTB–, smear-negative pulmonary TB; EPTB, extra-pulmonary TB.

Phenotypic drug sensitivity patterns as detected by MGIT 960 system

Phenotypic DST could be done on 78.3% (126/161) of the MTBC isolates (Figure 1) and the result is summarized in Table 2. About 91% of the isolates from the new TB case were pan-susceptible to anti-TB drugs, while four of the seven isolates from the re-treatment case isolates were pan-susceptible to anti-TB drugs. Mono-drug resistance was observed in 9.2% (11/119) of the isolates of the new TB cases. The highest incidence of mono-drug resistance was observed to PZA (5.9%) followed by STR (2.5%). Polydrug resistance and MDR were observed in two and one of the seven re-treatment cases, respectively. The results are summarized in Table 2.

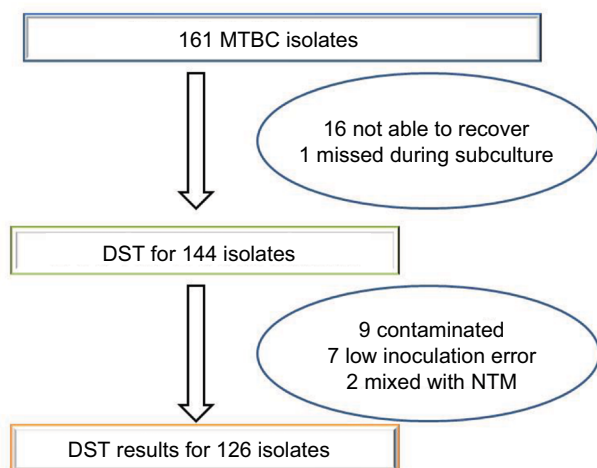


Figure 1 Total numbers of MTBC isolates and number of isolates with phenotypic DST result.

Abbreviations: MTBC, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex; DST, drug sensitivity test; NTM, nontuberculous mycobacteria; NTM, nontuberculous mycobacteria.

Phenotypic drug resistance and its association with demographic characteristics

A summary result of the logistic regression indicating the association of phenotypic drug resistance and selected demographic characteristics is presented in Table 3. The re-treatment TB cases were significantly associated with increased odds of having drug-resistant isolates compared to the new TB cases (AOR=11.60, 95% CI: 1.70–78.92).

Genotypic drug resistance data

Genotypic DST results of selected 13 isolates out of 158 susceptible isolates and all the three isolates, which showed resistance, are depicted in Figure 2. As observed in Figure 2, RIF mono-drug resistance was 1.3% (2/153) in the new TB cases. One of these two isolates had known CAC→GAC mutation resulting in the amino acid substitution at H526D, while the other isolate had a missing *rpoB*-WT8 without a known mutation. One MDR-TB case was identified for eight TB re-treatment TB cases. The MDR isolate had a GAC→GTC mutation in *rpoB* (amino acid substitution D516V) and an AGC→ACA mutation in *katG* (amino acid substitution S315T2).

Genotypic MTBDRplus assay performance compared to MGIT 960 system

The diagnostic performance of the MTBDRplus assay was evaluated by the MGIT 960 system on 126 MTBC isolates. As summarized in Table 4, the sensitivities of the MTBDRplus assay for detection of resistance to INH, RIF and MDR were 33.3%, 100% and 100%, respectively. Its specificities for the detection of resistance to INH, RIF

Table 2 Phenotypic DST results for 126 MTBC isolates

TB cases	No. of Isolates	First-line anti-TB drugs					DR type	%
		STR	INH	RIF	EMB	PZA		
New (N=119)	108 (90.8)	S	S	S	S	S	Pan-S	90.8
	3 (2.5)	R	S	S	S	S	Mono	9.2
	1 (0.8)	S	S	S	R	S		
	7 (5.9)	S	S	S	S	R		
Re-treatment (N=7)	4 (57.1)	S	S	S	S	S	Pan-S	57.1
	2 (28.6)	S	R	S	S	R	Poly	28.6
	1 (14.3)	R	R	R	R	R	MDR	14.3
Any resistance (N=126)	14 (11.1)	3.2	2.4	0.8	1.6	7.9	MDR	0.8

Abbreviations: DST, drug sensitivity test; MTBC, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex; TB, tuberculosis; STR, streptomycin; INH, isoniazid; RIF, rifampicin; EMB, ethambutol; PZA, pyrazinamide; DR type, drug-resistance type; S, susceptible; Pan-S, pan-susceptible; R, resistant; MDR, multidrug resistance.

Table 3 Demographic factors associated with phenotypic drug resistance of MTBC isolates

Characteristics	Total N (%)	DR N (%)	Crude OR (95% CI)	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	P-value
Sex					
Female	48 (38.1)	7 (14.6)	1.00	1.00	0.357
Male	78 (61.9)	7 (9.0)	0.58 (0.19–1.76)	0.55 (0.15–1.98)	
Age in years					
15–29	56 (44.4)	6 (10.7)	1.00	1.00	0.601
30–44	48 (38.1)	4 (8.3)	0.76 (0.20–2.86)	0.68 (0.16–2.86)	
>=45	22 (17.5)	4 (18.2)	1.85 (0.47–7.33)	0.11 (3.95)	
TB type					
PTB+	84 (66.7)	10 (11.9)	1.00	1.00	0.483
PTB–	19 (15.1)	2 (10.5)	0.87 (0.18–4.34)	0.42 (0.04–4.77)	
EPTB	23 (18.3)	2 (8.7)	0.71 (0.14–3.47)	0.50 (0.09–2.77)	
Treatment history					
New TB cases	119 (94.4)	11 (9.2)	1.00	1.00	0.012
Re-treatment TB cases	7 (5.6)	3 (42.9)	7.36 (1.46–37.22)	11.60 (1.70–78.92)	
Residential area ^a					
Non-pastoral	54 (42.9)	8 (14.8)	1.00	1.00	0.241
Pastoral	56 (44.4)	5 (8.9)	0.56 (0.17–1.85)	0.46 (0.12–1.70)	

Note: ^aParticipants with unknown residences were excluded from logistic regression analysis.

Abbreviations: MTBC, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex; DR, drug resistance; TB, tuberculosis; PTB+, smear-positive pulmonary TB; PTB–, smear-negative pulmonary.

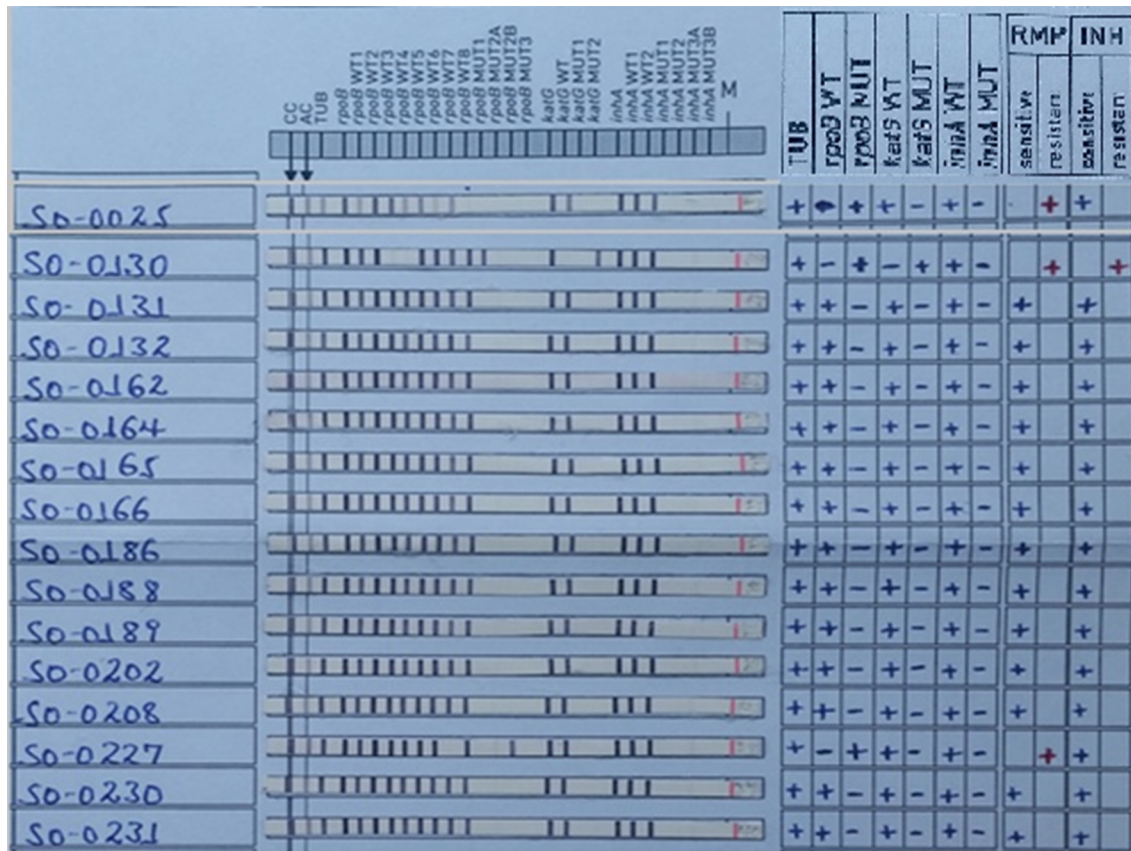


Figure 2 Genotypic DST results of selected susceptible isolates and all resistant isolates.

Notes: Three isolates (SO-0025, SO-0130 and SO-0227) were resistant to RIF and/or INH and the rest 13 isolates were susceptible to both RIF and INH as representative for the 158 susceptible isolates to RIF and INH. In this illustration, isolate SO-0130 was from the re-treatment TB case and the remaining 15 isolates were from the new TB cases.

Abbreviations: DST, drug sensitivity test; RIF, rifampicin; INH, isoniazid; TB, tuberculosis; CC, conjugate control; AC, amplification control; WT, wild-type probe; MUT, mutation probe; TUB, *M. tuberculosis* complex.

Table 4 GenoType MTBDR_{plus} assay performance evaluation compared to MGIT 960 system

		MGIT 960 system		Total	Diagnostic performance of GenoType MTBDR _{plus} assay				Level of agreement k-value	
		R	S		Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV		
GenoType MTBDR _{plus} assay	INH	R	1	0	1	33.3	100	100	98.4	0.494
		S	2	123	125					
	RIF	R	1	1	2	100	99.2	50	100	0.663
		S	0	124	124					
	MDR	R	1	0	1	100	100	100	100	1.00
		S	0	125	125					

Abbreviations: R, resistant; S, susceptible; PPV, positive predictive value; NPV, negative predictive value; INH, isoniazid; RIF, rifampicin; MDR, multidrug resistance.

and MDR were 100%, 99.2% and 100%, respectively. One isolate showed RIF resistance to genotypic DST but not to phenotypic DST. On the contrary, two isolates showed INH resistance to phenotypic DST but not to genotypic DST.

Discussion

In the present study, the DST was performed on 161 MTBC isolates, which were isolated from clinical cases in South Omo Zone, southern Ethiopia. The findings of this study are expected to be useful for the TB Control Program of Zone and would serve as baseline data for future studies.

Majority of the isolates were recovered from the economically productive age group, and this observation is similar with observation made by the previous studies.²⁸⁻³¹ The reason could be due to the mobility of this age group for economy and social reasons. Similarly, relatively large number of isolates were recovered from males than females which is in agreement with the WHO report.¹ This could be attributed to the difference between the two sex groups in biological, societal role and access to health facilities.³²

In this study, 90.8% of the isolates of the new TB cases were phenotypically pan-susceptible and mono-drug resistance was observed relatively in lower percentage when compared with the percentage reported by the national survey.³³ The highest mono-drug resistance was observed against PZA and similar observations were made in Quebec³⁴ and People's Republic of China.³⁵ PZA is part of the first- and the second-line anti-TB drugs¹⁰ and helps to shorten the duration of TB treatment.³⁶ PZA resistance is associated with less probable of treatment success.³⁷ Hence, the existence of more PZA-resistant isolates in the study area could have an impact on TB Control Program of the area. Two of the PZA-resistant isolates in this study were *M. bovis*, which are naturally resistant to PZA.³⁸

In this study, STR mono-drug-resistance in the new TB cases was the second higher proportion next to PZA. This

finding is similar with those reported by the previous studies in Ethiopia^{29,33,39-41} and could be due to the widespread use of STR for treatment of the other bacterial infections.^{42,43} The least percentage to resistance was observed against EMB and this observation is in agreement with the results reported by earlier studies.^{29,33,39-41} No resistance was observed either against INH or against RIF in isolates of the new TB cases. But mono-resistance was observed against INH in the re-treatment cases and was associated with poor treatment outcomes.⁴⁴ Hence, strengthening case management could help to avert the effect of INH resistance. The proportion of MDR-TB in the re-treatment TB cases was similar to that of one study reported earlier,⁴¹ while it was less than those reported by the other studies.^{29-31,40} However, it was difficult to make a reliable comparison because of the small sample size of the re-treatment cases in this study.

One of the isolates recovered from the re-treatment TB cases was resistant to both RIF and INH (MDR) and the majority (95%) of RIF resistance occurred within RIF resistance determining region with 81 bp length when there is a mutation in the *rpoB* gene.¹⁵ Mutations in the *katG*, *inhA* and *ahpC* genes lead to INH resistance, which does not occur in a specific region like that of RIF resistance.⁴⁵ Mostly *katG* gene mutation is associated with high-level resistance.⁴⁶ The MDR isolate missed *rpoB* WT3 and *rpoB* WT4 genes and had a mutation at *rpoB*MUT1 with an amino acid change of D516V (GAC→GTC), which is a synonym of D435V (GAC→GTC).⁴⁷ This isolate, in addition, missed WT *katG* gene and developed *katG* MUT2 with an amino acid change of S315T2 (AGC→ACA). Similarly, such *rpoB* gene mutation types were observed at low frequency in studies conducted in Ethiopia⁴⁸ and Pakistan,⁴⁹ and at high frequency in a study conducted in East Hungary.⁵⁰ The amino acid change of S315T2 (AGC→ACA) in this isolate was not previously reported from Ethiopia but the most common reported amino acid change in Ethiopia has been S315T1, which is in the range of 83%–100%.^{28,48,51-53}

One of RIF mono-resistant isolates missed *rpoB* WT7 gene and developed mutation at *rpoB* MUT2B with an amino acid change of H526D, which is a synonym of H445D.⁴⁷ Such type of mutation with an amino acid change of H526D was previously reported in Ethiopia in the proportion of 0%–22%.^{28,48,51,53} The other RIF mono-resistant isolate missed *rpoB* WT8 and had no known mutation, which may not indicate real resistance but rather it could be due to a silent mutation in *rpoB* gene.⁵⁴ Similarly, such resistance was reported in previous studies of Ethiopia with various proportions including 11.8%⁵³ and 44.4%.⁵¹ But most RIF-resistant isolates missing *rpoB* WT8 are accompanied by an S531L amino acid change.^{28,48,53,55} RIF mono-resistant isolates were identified from the new TB cases, which could be acquired from TB patients who had RIF-resistant TB or the patients could previously be treated with RIF for other bacterial infection.^{42,43} Molecular detection of RIF resistance is used as a surrogate marker for MDR-TB.^{11,13,28} Hence, the identification of RIF-resistant and MDR isolates in the present study indicated the existence of MDR-TB in the study area, which highlights the need for strengthening of the TB control program in the study area.

The sensitivity of GenoType MTBDR*plus* assay for detection of INH resistance in the present study was lower than those reported by previous studies in Ethiopia,^{48,51} Uganda⁵⁵ and Pakistan.⁴⁹ The MTBDR*plus* assay was not able to detect the INH resistance in the two isolates, which were detected by MGIT 960 system. This could be due to mutations in the *inhA* promoter and the *ahpC*-*oxyR* intergenic regions, which have not been included in the strips⁵⁶ or it could also be due to unidentified mutation. The high specificity of the MTBDR*plus* assay in detecting INH resistance, RIF resistance and MDR MTBC isolates agrees with the specificity of previous studies.^{48,51,55} RIF resistance in one isolate was detected by the MTBDR*plus* assay but not by MGIT 960 system. Being susceptible by phenotypic method but resistant by genotypic method may be associated with false RIF resistance due to a silent mutation which make the probe fails to hybridize on a strip and interpreted as RIF resistant.⁵⁷ The three isolates that created discordance between the assays used need further analysis by DNA sequencing to fully understand reasons for the observed discordance.

Conclusion

The magnitude of drug resistance was relatively low in new TB cases of South Omo as compared to those reported from the other regions of the country. This is encouraging, and

hence, the TB Control Program in Zone should strengthen its program and make continuous surveillance so that early detection enables the concerned bodies to take appropriate actions to inhibit the emergence of drug resistance in South Omo.

Acknowledgments

The research was funded by the National Institute of Health with grant number U01HG007472-01, the Addis Ababa University, the Arba Minch University and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI). The authors would like to thank communities and health professionals in South Omo and staff members of ALIPB-AAU and MRC-JU for their unreserved support during the research work. The authors would like to thank Harar, Adama and Bahirdar Health Research and Regional Laboratories for the borrowing of MGIT DST set carriers. Finally, authors would like to thank Mr. Zelalem Yaregal and Mr. Bazezew Yenew (EPHI), Mr. Musse Brhane (Harar), Mr. Mohammed Suaidi (Adama) and Mr. Gashaw Yitayew (Bahirdar) for their help during phenotypic DST.

Author contributions

BW was principal investigator who conceived and designed the study and participated in sample collection, laboratory work, data analysis and interpretation and drafting of the manuscript. GM participated in the study design, data analysis and interpretation. G Abebe participated in phenotypic DST laboratory work. ST and TM participated in genotypic DST laboratory work. TT participated in sample collection. RP participated in the study conception and design. G Ameni participated in the study conception, design and supervision. GM, G Abebe, ST, TM, TT, RP and G Abebe also participated in critical review of the manuscript. All authors contributed toward data analysis, drafting and revising the paper and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work. All the authors read and approved the submitted manuscript.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

References

1. World Health Organization. Global Tuberculosis Report. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017. Available from: http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/. Accessed August 10, 2018.
2. Streptomycin treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis: a Medical Research Council investigation. *BMJ*. 1948;2:769–782.
3. Schatz A, Bugle E, Waksman SA. Streptomycin, a substance exhibiting antibiotic activity against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. *Proc Soc Exp Biol Med*. 1944;55:66–69.
4. Calvori C, Frontali L, Leoni L, Tecce G. Effect of rifamycin on protein synthesis. *Nature*. 1965;207(995):417–418.

5. Sensi P. History of the development of rifampin. *Rev Infect Dis*. 1983;5(Suppl 3):S402–S406.
6. Cohn DL, Bustreo F, Raviglione MC. Drug-resistant tuberculosis: review of the worldwide situation and the WHO/IUATLD Global Surveillance Project. *Clin Infect Dis*. 1997;24(Suppl 1):S121–S130.
7. World Health Organization. Drug-Resistant TB Surveillance and Response: Supplement Global Tuberculosis Report 2014. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014. Available from: <http://www.who.int/iris/handle/10665/137095>. Accessed August 10, 2018.
8. World Health Organization. Guidelines for Surveillance of Drug Resistance in Tuberculosis. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009. Available from: http://www.who.int/tb/publications/surveillance_guidelines/en/. Accessed August 10, 2018.
9. Biadlegne F, Sack U, Rodloff AC. Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Ethiopia: efforts to expand diagnostic services, treatment and care. *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control*. 2014;3(1):31.
10. Federal Ministry of Health Ethiopia. Guideline for Program and Clinical Management of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis. Addis Ababa: FMOH; 2009.
11. Federal Ministry of Health Ethiopia and Ethiopian Public Health Institute. Implementation Guideline for GeneXpert MTB/RIF Assay in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian Public Health Institute; 2014. Available from: <https://www.medbox.org/et-guidelines-hiv-tb/implementation-guideline-for-gene-xpert-mtbrif-assay-in-ethiopia/preview?>. Accessed August 10, 2018.
12. Siddiqi S, Ahmed A, Asif S, et al. Direct drug susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* for rapid detection of multidrug resistance using the Bactec MGIT 960 system: a multicenter study. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2012;50(2):435–440.
13. World Health Organization. Molecular Line Probe Assay for Rapid Screening of Patients at Risk of Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB): Policy Statement. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2008. Available from: http://www.who.int/tb/laboratory/line_probe_assays/en/. Accessed August 10, 2018.
14. World Health Organization. Rapid implementation of the Xpert MTB/RIF diagnostic test. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2011. Available from: <http://www.who.int/tb/publications/tb-amplificationtechnology-implementation/en/>. Accessed August 10, 2018.
15. Telenti A, Imboden P, Marchesi F, et al. Detection of rifampicin-resistance mutations in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Lancet*. 1993;341(8846):647–650.
16. Banerjee A, Dubnau E, Quemard A, et al. *inhA*, a gene encoding a target for isoniazid and ethionamide in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Science*. 1994;263(5144):227–230.
17. Zhang Y, Heym B, Allen B, Young D, Cole S. The catalase-peroxidase gene and isoniazid resistance of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Nature*. 1992;358(6387):591–593.
18. CLSI. *Susceptibility Testing of Mycobacteria, Nocardia, and Other Aerobic Actinomycetes: Approved Standard*. 2nd ed. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute 2011:1–64.
19. Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region Culture and Tourism Bureau. South Omo Zone Administrative Zone, Administrative Map. Hawassa: SNNPR; 2016.
20. United Nations Development Programme. Regional Map of Ethiopia. Addis Ababa: UNDP; 1996.
21. Central Statistical Agency. Summary and Statistical Report of the 2007 Population and Housing Census. Population Size by Age and Sex: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Population Census Commission, with support from UNFPA. Addis Ababa: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia PCC; 2008.
22. Wondale B, Medihn G, Teklu T, Mersha W, Tamirat M, Ameni G. A retrospective study on tuberculosis treatment outcomes at Jinka General Hospital, southern Ethiopia. *BMC Res Notes*. 2017;10(1):680.
23. Brosch R, Gordon SV, Marmiesse M, et al. A new evolutionary scenario for the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 2002;99(6):3684–3689.
24. Wilton S, Cousins D. Detection and identification of multiple mycobacterial pathogens by DNA amplification in a single tube. *PCR Methods Appl*. 1992;1(4):269–273.
25. Kamerbeek J, Schouls L, Kolk A, et al. Simultaneous detection and strain differentiation of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* for diagnosis and epidemiology. *J Clin Microbiol*. 1997;35(4):907–914.
26. Siddiqi S, Rusch-Gerdes S. MGIT™ Procedure Manual For BACTEC™ MGIT 960™ TB System: Mycobacteria Growth Indicator Tube (MGIT) Culture and Drug Susceptibility Demonstration Projects. Geneva: FiND; 2006:1–52.
27. Hain Lifescience. GenoType MTBDRplus VER 2.0: Molecular Genetic Assay for Identification of the *M. tuberculosis* Complex and its Resistance to Rifampicin and Isoniazid from Clinical Specimens and Cultivated Samples. Germany: Hain Lifescience GmbH; 2012:1–13. Available from: https://www.ghdonline.org/uploads/MTBDRplusV2_0212_304A-02-02.pdf. Accessed August 10, 2018.
28. Brhane M, Kebede A, Petros Y. Molecular detection of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis among smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Jigjiga town, Ethiopia. *Infect Drug Resist*. 2017;10:75–83.
29. Agonafir M, Lemma E, Wolde-Meskel D, et al. Phenotypic and genotypic analysis of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Ethiopia. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2010;14(10):1259–1265.
30. Abdella K, Abdissa K, Kebede W, Abebe G. Drug resistance patterns of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex and associated factors among retreatment cases around Jimma, Southwest Ethiopia. *BMC Public Health*. 2015;15:599.
31. Abate D, Taye B, Abseno M, Biadgilign S. Epidemiology of anti-tuberculosis drug resistance patterns and trends in tuberculosis referral hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. *BMC Res Notes*. 2012;5:462.
32. Borgdorff MW, Nagelkerke NJ, Dye C, Nunn P. Gender and tuberculosis: a comparison of prevalence surveys with notification data to explore sex differences in case detection. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2000;4(2):123–132.
33. Getahun M, Ameni G, Kebede A, et al. Molecular typing and drug sensitivity testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolated by a community-based survey in Ethiopia. *BMC Public Health*. 2015;15:751.
34. Nguyen D, Brassard P, Westley J, et al. Widespread pyrazinamide-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* family in a low-incidence setting. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2003;41:2878–2883.
35. Li D, Hu Y, Werngren J, et al. Multicenter study of the emergence and genetic characteristics of pyrazinamide-resistant tuberculosis in China. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2016;60(9):5159–5166.
36. Steele MA, Des Prez RM. The role of pyrazinamide in tuberculosis chemotherapy. *Chest*. 1988;94(4):845–850.
37. Yee DP, Menzies D, Brassard P. Clinical outcomes of pyrazinamide-monoresistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Quebec. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2012;16(5):604–609.
38. de Jong BC, Onipede A, Pym AS, et al. Does resistance to pyrazinamide accurately indicate the presence of *Mycobacterium bovis*? *J Clin Microbiol*. 2005;43(7):3530–3532.
39. Biadlegne F, Tessema B, Sack U, Rodloff AC. Drug resistance of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from tuberculosis lymphadenitis patients in Ethiopia. *Indian J Med Res*. 2014;140(1):116–122.
40. Esmael A, Ali I, Agonafir M, et al. Drug resistance pattern of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Eastern Amhara regional state Ethiopia. *J Microb Biochem Technol*. 2014;6:75–79.
41. Hamusse SD, Teshome D, Hussen MS, Demissie M, Lindtjorn B. Primary and secondary anti-tuberculosis drug resistance in Hitossa District of Arsi Zone, Oromia Regional State, Central Ethiopia. *BMC Public Health*. 2016;16:593.
42. Drug Administration and Control Authority of Ethiopia. Standard Treatment Guideline for Primary Hospitals. Addis Ababa: DACA; 2010.
43. Grouzard V, Rigal J, Sutton M, editors. *Clinical Guidelines Diagnosis and Treatment Manual*. 2016 ed. Geneva: Medecins Sans Frontieres; 2016.
44. Gegia M, Cohen T, Kalandadze I, Vashakidze L, Furin J. Outcomes among tuberculosis patients with isoniazid resistance in Georgia, 2007–2009. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2012;16(6):812–816.
45. Hillemann D, Rüschi-Gerdes S, Richter E. Evaluation of the GenoType MTBDRplus assay for rifampin and isoniazid susceptibility testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains and clinical specimens. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2007;45(8):2635–2640.

46. Gillespie SH. Evolution of drug resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: clinical and molecular perspective. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother.* 2002;46(2):267–274.
47. Andre E, Goeminne L, Cabibbe A, et al. Consensus numbering system for the rifampicin resistance-associated *rpoB* gene mutations in pathogenic mycobacteria. *Clin Microbiol Infect.* 2017;23(3):167–172.
48. Kebede A, Demisse D, Assefa M, et al. Performance of MTBDRplus assay in detecting multidrug resistant tuberculosis at hospital level. *BMC Res Notes.* 2017;10(1):661.
49. Javaid M, Ahmed A, Asif S, Raza A. Diagnostic plausibility of MTB-DRplus and MTBDRsl line probe assays for rapid drug susceptibility testing of drug resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains in Pakistan. *Int J Infect.* 2016;3:e34903.
50. Bártfai Z, Somoskövi A, Ködmön C, et al. Molecular characterization of rifampin-resistant isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from Hungary by DNA sequencing and the line probe assay. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2001;39(10):3736–3739.
51. Bedewi Omer Z, Mekonnen Y, Worku A, et al. Evaluation of the Geno-Type MTBDRplus assay for detection of rifampicin- and isoniazid-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates in central Ethiopia. *Int J Mycobacteriol.* 2016;5(4):475–481.
52. Biadlegne F, Tessema B, Rodloff AC, Sack U. Magnitude of gene mutations conferring drug resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates from lymph node aspirates in Ethiopia. *Int J Med Sci.* 2013;10(11):1589–1594.
53. Tadesse M, Aragaw D, Dimah B, et al. Drug resistance-conferring mutations in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from pulmonary tuberculosis patients in Southwest Ethiopia. *Int J Mycobacteriol.* 2016;5(2):185–191.
54. Alonso M, Palacios JJ, Herranz M, et al. Isolation of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strains with a silent mutation in *rpoB* leading to potential misassignment of resistance category. *J Clin Microbiol.* 2011;49(7):2688–2690.
55. Albert H, Bwanga F, Mukkada S, et al. Rapid screening of MDR-TB using molecular Line Probe Assay is feasible in Uganda. *BMC Infect Dis.* 2010;10:41.
56. Seifert M, Catanzaro D, Catanzaro A, Rodwell TC. Genetic mutations associated with isoniazid resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: a systematic review. *PLoS One.* 2015;10(3):e0119628.
57. Mathys V, van de Vyvere M, de Droogh E, Soetaert K, Groenen G. False-positive rifampicin resistance on Xpert® MTB/RIF caused by a silent mutation in the *rpoB* gene. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis.* 2014;18(10):1255–1257.

Infection and Drug Resistance

Publish your work in this journal

Infection and Drug Resistance is an international, peer-reviewed open-access journal that focuses on the optimal treatment of infection (bacterial, fungal and viral) and the development and institution of preventive strategies to minimize the development and spread of resistance. The journal is specifically concerned with the epidemiology of antibiotic

resistance and the mechanisms of resistance development and diffusion in both hospitals and the community. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Submit your manuscript here: <https://www.dovepress.com/infection-and-drug-resistance-journal>

Dovepress