The coming-of-age of bedaquiline: a tale with an open ending

Lorenzo Guglielmetti, Francis Varaine

► To cite this version:

Lorenzo Guglielmetti, Francis Varaine. The coming-of-age of bedaquiline: a tale with an open ending. *European Respiratory Journal*, 2021, 57 (6), pp.2100066. 10.1183/13993003.00066-2021 . hal-03260316

HAL Id: hal-03260316

<https://hal.sorbonne-universite.fr/hal-03260316>

Submitted on 14 Jun 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

1 **European Respiratory Journal**

2 Editorial

3

4 **Title:**

5 **The coming-of-age of bedaquiline: a tale with an open ending**

6

7 **Word count:** 1210 **References:** 40

8 **Tables:** 1 **Figures:** 0

9

10 **Authors:**

11 Lorenzo Guglielmetti, M.D., Ph.D.^{1,2,3}

12 Francis Varaine, M.D.³

13

14 **Affiliations:**

15 1. Sorbonne Université, INSERM, U1135, Centre d'Immunologie et des Maladies
16 Infectieuses, Cimi-Paris, équipe 13, Paris, France;

17 2. APHP, Groupe Hospitalier Universitaire Sorbonne Université, Hôpital Pitié-
18 Salpêtrière, Centre National de Référence des Mycobactéries et de la Résistance des
19 Mycobactéries aux Antituberculeux, Paris, France;

20 3. Médecins Sans Frontières, Paris, France.

21

22 **Corresponding author:**

23 Lorenzo Guglielmetti

24 e-mail: lorenzo.guglielmetti@aphp.fr

Laboratoire de Bactériologie-Hygiène, Faculté de Médecine Sorbonne Université, 91
Boulevard de l'hôpital, 75634 Paris Cedex 13, France
Tel: +33 1 40 77 97 56

Author contributions:

LG made a substantial contribution to the conception of the manuscript, wrote the manuscript, critically revised the manuscript for important intellectual content, gave final approval of the current version to be published, and agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

FV made a substantial contribution to the conception of the manuscript, critically revised the manuscript for important intellectual content, gave final approval of the current version to be published, and agrees to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Financial and competing interest disclosure:

LG is the co-Principal Investigator and FV is the Project Leader of two MSF-sponsored clinical trials testing MDR-TB regimens including bedaquiline. They have no other competing interests to disclose. There is no specific funding to declare for this study.

TEXT:

Bedaquiline can probably be considered the biggest breakthrough of the last decades in tuberculosis drug development. The first compound of a new anti-tuberculosis drug class, diarylquinolines, bedaquiline binds the mycobacterial ATP synthase, inducing major conformational changes and ultimately impacting the bacterial respiration pathway.[1, 2] After being developed in 2005,[3] bedaquiline showed promising results in Phase II trials[4, 5], and was granted accelerated approval in 2012 by the FDA in the United States and conditional approval in 2014 by the EMA in the European Union. In the following years, the access to bedaquiline has progressively increased, from compassionate to programmatic use,[6, 7] although at an insufficient pace. Between July 2015 and December 2019, 51,098 patients received bedaquiline worldwide: although remarkable, this figure only represents 11% of those who are estimated to need it according to the most recent recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO).[8]

In this issue of the *European Respiratory Journal*, Chesov and co-authors elegantly describe the impact of the early years of programmatic bedaquiline implementation in the Republic of Moldova.[9]. In this retrospective cohort study, consecutive adult patients diagnosed with culture-confirmed pulmonary multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) were identified through a nationwide database. Overall, 2069 MDR-TB patients were included in the study: 115 had received bedaquiline and 1954 had not. The study included patients who started treatment between 2016 and 2018, a period during which bedaquiline was reserved mainly for the most difficult-to-treat strains and for salvage treatment regimens: consequently, most bedaquiline-treated patients in the cohort have a history of treatment failure, positive sputum smear results and lung cavities at baseline, and harbour fluoroquinolone-resistant strains. In order to select a comparable population, propensity

score matching was performed by age, sex, area of residence, presence of cavitary lesion, HIV status, sputum smear positivity at baseline, fluoroquinolone resistance, previous history of tuberculosis, and drugs included in the treatment regimen: this allowed the selection of two groups of 114 patients with similar baseline characteristics. Remarkably, favourable treatment outcome rates were higher in the bedaquiline-treated group using WHO definitions (55.3% versus 24.6%) in all the cohort and TBnet definitions in the subgroup of patients who had at least one year post-treatment follow-up available (43.5% versus 19.6%). In addition, mortality rates were significantly lower in the bedaquiline-treated group. Despite limitations due to its retrospective nature, missing data in some of the matching variables, and potential unknown confounders not captured by propensity scoring, this study gives an excellent example of the impact of bedaquiline as part of conventional MDR-TB treatment regimens with a sound methodological approach. However, outcomes achieved by bedaquiline-treated patients in the cohort are still far from optimal, as shown by high rates of treatment failure (27.2% and 39.2%, according to WHO and TBnet definitions). This finding, similar to results from previous studies performed in the same region [10, 11], may have multiple explanations: bedaquiline was, in most cases (82%), not part of the initial regimen and added subsequently to adapt to phenotypic drug susceptibility testing (DST) results; when bedaquiline was added, it was usually not accompanied by other effective drugs; bedaquiline was administered for a median of 34 weeks, and almost never for the full duration of treatment; finally, other important drugs, such as clofazimine and delamanid, were used only in few cases due to limited availability in the Republic of Moldova.

The study by Chesov et al. adds up to an already rich body of observational evidence supporting the use of bedaquiline for MDR-TB[12]. Large, multinational cohort studies and a meta-analysis of individual patient data have confirmed the efficacy of this drug.[13–16] Similarly, initial safety concerns, in particular regarding QT interval prolongation, have been progressively dispelled.[17–20] WHO recommendations include bedaquiline among the “core drugs” of the individualized, conventional treatment regimen for MDR-TB, and recently also as part of an all-oral shorter MDR-TB regimen.[21] Moreover, latest WHO recommendations allow for increasing flexibility in establishing the duration of bedaquiline treatment beyond 24 weeks and in combining it with other QT-prolonging drugs, like delamanid.

Does this mean that the tale of bedaquiline is heading towards a happy ending? Unfortunately, we cannot say for sure (yet). All these recommendations are based on observational data, indirect comparisons (for the shorter regimen), and mostly very low quality evidence.[22] Indeed, results of a Phase III clinical trial on bedaquiline are still awaited, despite engagements by the manufacturer at the moment of provisional approval by the FDA.[23] There are also reasons of concern that should not be underestimated. In the last years, multiple reports have alerted on the selection of emerging drug resistance to bedaquiline.[24–27] Fears of increasing resistance rates have led some groups to advocate “restricting” the use of bedaquiline for fluoroquinolone-resistant strains.[28] In addition, reliable DST for bedaquiline (and other new and re-purposed drugs) is currently lacking in most medium- and high-incidence countries.[29, 30]

Ultimately, major breakthroughs, and reliable data on the risk of acquired drug resistance, will only come from clinical research. Multiple clinical trials, summarized in the Table, are currently planned or undergoing.[31] The development path of bedaquiline is now at a

crossroads leading to (at least) four main directions. First, bedaquiline may continue to be assessed as part of all-oral regimens for rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis: these drug combinations are tested as standardized options for all rifampicin-resistant strains (i.e. TB-PRACTECAL), or as part of a strategy where regimens can be adapted to results of rapid molecular testing for fluoroquinolone resistance (i.e. BEAT Tuberculosis). Second, bedaquiline may be included in regimens which specifically target fluoroquinolone-susceptible strains (i.e. STREAM Stage 2, endTB). Third, bedaquiline may be reserved for fluoroquinolone-resistant strains, as part of combinations of new and re-purposed drugs (i.e. endTB-Q). In all these cases, the overarching goal is to reduce the treatment duration of such drug-resistant strains to 6 to 10 months, while preventing the selection of drug resistance, not compromising the efficacy rates of conventional treatment, and hopefully improving its safety profile. Finally, bedaquiline may be studied as a component of new efforts to improve first-line treatment for rifampicin-susceptible tuberculosis by reducing its duration to 2 to 4 months, as hinted by promising pre-clinical[32] and bactericidal activity studies.[33] Regardless of the development path, randomized Phase III trials[34, 35], including a sufficient sample size and an internal, dynamic control arm, are needed to radically improve the evidence base for treatment of this disease.[36] Innovative trial designs may help accelerate this process,[37, 38] but adequate funding and strong political commitment are more critical than ever in these coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) times.[39]

Recent improvements in MDR-TB treatment with bedaquiline-containing regimens, as shown by Chesov and co-authors,[9] are undeniable, and make a case for enhanced global access to bedaquiline and other new and re-purposed drugs. However, this may only be the

140 beginning of the journey for bedaquiline. Strategic choices on priorities of clinical
141 development of this drug will shape its role in tuberculosis treatment in coming years. We
142 believe that these choices should be guided by the need to improve treatment outcome for
143 each patient, and that all development directions are worthy of being explored.
144 Implementation of bedaquiline-containing regimens based on high-quality evidence
145 expected from clinical trials, together with widespread DST capacity, rather than restricted
146 use for salvage therapy, may be the best way to prevent resistance and to ensure the grand
147 finale that this story deserves.

Tables

Table. Selection of main ongoing and planned Phase II/III clinical trials testing bedaquiline-containing regimens.

Trial	Phase	Control Arm	Experimental treatment duration (months)	Drug used in combination with bedaquiline in the experimental arm(s)	Clinicaltrials.gov identifier (reference)
<i>Drug-susceptible tuberculosis</i>					
CRUSH-TB	2	Yes	4	Z, Mfx, Rbt or Dlm	NA
SimpliciTB	2/3	Yes	4	Z, Mfx, Ptm	NCT03338621
TRUNCATE-TB	3	Yes	2-3	H, Z, E, Lzd	NCT03474198
<i>Rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (regardless of susceptibility to fluoroquinolones)</i>					
BEAT Tuberculosis	3	Yes	6	Lzd, Dlm, Lfx or Cfz	NCT04062201
TB-PRACTECAL	2/3	Yes	6	Mfx, Cfz, Lzd, Ptm	NCT02589782
<i>Rifampicin-resistant, fluoroquinolone-susceptible tuberculosis</i>					
endTB	3	Yes	9	Z, Lfx or Mfx, Cfz, Lzd, Dlm	NCT02754765
STREAM Stage 2	3	Yes	9	H, Z, E, Lfx, Cfz, Pto	NCT02409290[40]
TB-TRUST	3	Yes	6-10	Z, Lfx, Cs, Cfz, Lzd	NCT03867136
<i>Rifampicin- and fluoroquinolone-resistant tuberculosis</i>					
BEAT-TB	3	No	6-9	Cfz, Lzd, Dlm	NA
endTB-Q	3	Yes	6-9	Cfz, Lzd, Dlm	NCT03896685
ZeNIX	3	No	6	Lzd, Ptm	NCT03086486

H = isoniazid, Rbt = rifabutin, Z = pyrazinamide, E = ethambutol, Lfx = levofloxacin, Mfx = moxifloxacin, Cfz = clofazimine, Lzd = linezolid, Dlm = delamanid, Ptm = pretomanid, NA = not applicable.

156 **Acknowledgements**

157 None.

158 References

- 159 1. Guo H, Courbon GM, Bueler SA, Mai J, Liu J, Rubinstein JL. Structure of mycobacterial
160 ATP synthase bound to the tuberculosis drug bedaquiline. *Nature* [Internet] 2020 [cited
161 2020 Dec 24]; Available from: <http://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-3004-3>.
- 162 2. Lamprecht DA, Finin PM, Rahman MdA, Cumming BM, Russell SL, Jonnala SR, Adamson
163 JH, Steyn AJC. Turning the respiratory flexibility of Mycobacterium tuberculosis against
164 itself. *Nat Commun* 2016; 7: 12393.
- 165 3. Andries K. A Diarylquinoline Drug Active on the ATP Synthase of Mycobacterium
166 tuberculosis. *Science* 2005; 307: 223–227.
- 167 4. Diacon AH, Patientia R, Krause R, Allen J, Palomino JC, Lounis N, de Beule K. The
168 Diarylquinoline TMC207 for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis. *n engl j med* 2009; : 9.
- 169 5. Diacon AH, Pym A, Grobusch MP, de los Rios JM, Gotuzzo E, Vasilyeva I, Leimane V,
170 Andries K, Bakare N, De Marez T, Haxaire-Theeuwes M, Lounis N, Meyvisch P, De
171 Paepe E, van Heeswijk RPG, Dannemann B. Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis and
172 Culture Conversion with Bedaquiline. *N Engl J Med* 2014; 371: 723–732.
- 173 6. Rodriguez C, Brooks M, Guglielmetti L, Hewison C, Jachym M, Lessem E, Varaine F,
174 Mitnick C. Barriers and facilitators to compassionate use of bedaquiline and delamanid
175 for drug resistant tuberculosis: a mixed methods study. *Public Health in Action* 2018; In
176 publication.
- 177 7. Guglielmetti L, Hewison C, Avaliani Z, Hughes J, Kiria N, Lomtadze N, Ndjeka N, Setkina
178 S, Shabangu A, Sikhondze W, Skrahina A, Veziris N, Furin J. Examples of bedaquiline
179 introduction for the management of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in five countries.
180 *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* 2017; 21: 167–174.
- 181 8. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Stop TB Partnership; 2020. Step Up for TB: TB policies
182 in 37 countries, 4th Ed. *Geneva*. Available from: [https://msfaccess.org/step-tb-tb-](https://msfaccess.org/step-tb-tb-policies-37-countries-4th-ed?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Organic&utm_campaign=SUFT)
183 *policies-37-countries-4th-*
184 *ed?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Organic&utm_campaign=SUFT*. Date last
185 *accessed: December 31, 2020*; .
- 186 9. Chesov D, Heyckendorf J, Alexandru S, Donica A, Chesov E, Reiman M, Crudu V,
187 Botnaru V, Lange C. Impact of bedaquiline on treatment outcomes of multidrug-
188 resistant tuberculosis in a high-burden country. *European Respiratory Journal*
189 [Internet] European Respiratory Society; 2020 [cited 2020 Dec 27]; Available from:
190 <https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/early/2020/11/26/13993003.02544-2020>.
- 191 10. Hewison C, Bastard M, Khachatryan N, Kotrikadze T, Hayrapetyan A, Avaliani Z, Kiria N,
192 Yegiazaryan L, Chumburidze N, Kirakosyan O, Atshemyan H, Qayyum S, Lachenal N,
193 Varaine F, Huerga H. Is 6 months of bedaquiline enough? Results from the
194 compassionate use of bedaquiline in Armenia and Georgia. *The International Journal of*
195 *Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* 2018; 22: 766–772.

- 196 11. Bastard M, Guglielmetti L, Huerga H, Hayrapetyan A, Khachatryan N, Yegiazaryan L,
197 Faqirzai J, Hovhannisyan L, Varaine F, Hewison C. Bedaquiline and Repurposed Drugs
198 for Fluoroquinolone-Resistant MDR-TB: How Much Better Are They? *American Journal*
199 *of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 2018; doi: 10.1164/rccm.201801-0019LE.
- 200 12. Guglielmetti L, Chiesi S, Eimer J, Dominguez J, Masini T, Varaine F, Veziris N, Ader F,
201 Robert J. Bedaquiline and delamanid for drug-resistant tuberculosis: a clinician's
202 perspective. *Future Microbiology* 2020; 15: 779–799.
- 203 13. Franke MF, Khan P, Hewison C, Khan U, Huerga H, Seung KJ, Rich ML, Zarli K, Samieva
204 N, Oyewusi L, Nair P, Mudassar M, Melikyan N, Lenggogeni P, Lecca L, Kumsa A, Khan
205 M, Islam S, Hussein K, Docteur W, Chumburidze N, Berikova E, Atshemyan H, Atwood S,
206 Alam M, Ahmed S, Bastard M, Mitnick CD. Culture Conversion in Patients Treated with
207 Bedaquiline and/or Delamanid: A Prospective Multi-country Study. *Am J Respir Crit*
208 *Care Med* [Internet] American Thoracic Society - AJRCCM; 2020 [cited 2020 Aug 11];
209 Available from: <http://www.atsjournals.org/doi/10.1164/rccm.202001-0135OC>.
- 210 14. Borisov SE, Dheda K, Enwerem M, Romero Leyet R, D'Ambrosio L, Centis R, Sotgiu G,
211 Tiberi S, Alffenaar J-W, Maryandyshev A, Belilovski E, Ganatra S, Skrahina A, Akkerman
212 O, Aleksa A, Amale R, Artsukevich J, Bruchfeld J, Caminero JA, Carpena Martinez I,
213 Codecasa L, Dalcolmo M, Denholm J, Douglas P, Duarte R, Esmail A, Fadul M, Filippov
214 A, Davies Forsman L, Gaga M, et al. Effectiveness and safety of bedaquiline-containing
215 regimens in the treatment of MDR- and XDR-TB: a multicentre study. *Eur Respir J* 2017;
216 49: 1700387.
- 217 15. Schnippel K, Ndjeka N, Maartens G, Meintjes G, Master I, Ismail N, Hughes J, Ferreira H,
218 Padanilam X, Romero R, te Riele J, Conradie F. Effect of bedaquiline on mortality in
219 South African patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis: a retrospective cohort study.
220 *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* 2018; 6: 699–706.
- 221 16. Ahmad N, Ahuja SD, Akkerman OW, Alffenaar J-WC, Anderson LF, Baghaei P, Bang D,
222 Barry PM, Bastos ML, Behera D, Benedetti A, Bisson GP, Boeree MJ, Bonnet M, Brode
223 SK, Brust JCM, Cai Y, Caumes E, Cegielski JP, Centis R, Chan P-C, Chan ED, Chang K-C,
224 Charles M, Cirule A, Dalcolmo MP, D'Ambrosio L, de Vries G, Dheda K, Esmail A, et al.
225 Treatment correlates of successful outcomes in pulmonary multidrug-resistant
226 tuberculosis: an individual patient data meta-analysis. *The Lancet* 2018; 392: 821–834.
- 227 17. endTB Consortium. endTB interim analysis.
228 [http://www.endtb.org/sites/default/files/2018-](http://www.endtb.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/endTB%20interim%20analysis%20%2813%20July%202018%29.pdf)
229 [07/endTB%20interim%20analysis%20%2813%20July%202018%29.pdf](http://www.endtb.org/sites/default/files/2018-07/endTB%20interim%20analysis%20%2813%20July%202018%29.pdf) 2018; .
- 230 18. Lan Z, Ahmad N, Baghaei P, Barkane L, Benedetti A, Brode SK, Brust JCM, Campbell JR,
231 Chang VWL, Falzon D, Guglielmetti L, Isaakidis P, Kempker RR, Kipiani M, Kuksa L, Lange
232 C, Laniado-Laborín R, Nahid P, Rodrigues D, Singla R, Udwadia ZF, Menzies D, Ahmad N,
233 Baghaei P, Barkane L, Benedetti A, Brode S, Brust J, Campbell J, Chang V, et al. Drug-
234 associated adverse events in the treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis: an
235 individual patient data meta-analysis. *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* 2020; 8: 383–
236 394.

- 237 19. Guglielmetti L, Tiberi S, Burman M, Kunst H, Wejse C, Togonidze T, Bothamley G, Lange
238 C. QT prolongation and cardiac toxicity of new tuberculosis drugs in Europe: a
239 Tuberculosis Network European Trialsgroup (TBnet) study. *European Respiratory*
240 *Journal* 2018; 52: 1800537.
- 241 20. Dooley KE. QT effects of bedaquiline, delamanid, or both in MDR-TB patients: the
242 DELIBERATE trial. Presented at CROI, March 4-7, 2019, in Seattle, Washington. Seattle,
243 Washington; 2019.
- 244 21. World Health Organization. WHO consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis. Module 4,
245 Module 4, [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2020 Dec 27]. Available from:
246 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK558570/>.
- 247 22. Guglielmetti L, Huerga H, Khan U, Varaine F. WHO 2019 guidelines on drug-resistant
248 tuberculosis treatment: based on evidence or expert opinion? *Eur Respir J* 2020; 55:
249 1901935.
- 250 23. FDA. Sirturo approval letter.
251 https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/applletter/2012/204384Orig1s000ltr.pdf
252 *(accessed on Dec 24th, 2020)* 2012; .
- 253 24. Andres S, Merker M, Heyckendorf J, Kalsdorf B, Rumetshofer R, Indra A, Hofmann-Thiel
254 S, Hoffmann H, Lange C, Niemann S, Maurer FP. Bedaquiline-resistant Tuberculosis:
255 Dark Clouds on the Horizon. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2020; : rccm.201909-1819LE.
- 256 25. Veziris N, Bernard C, Guglielmetti L, Le Du D, Marigot-Outtandy D, Jaspard M, Caumes
257 E, Lerat I, Rioux C, Yazdanpanah Y, Tiotiu A, Lemaitre N, Brossier F, Jarlier V, Robert J,
258 Sougakoff W, Aubry A. Rapid emergence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis bedaquiline
259 resistance: lessons to avoid repeating past errors. *European Respiratory Journal*
260 <https://doi.org/10.1183/13993003.01719-2016>.
- 261 26. Nimmo C, Millard J, van Dorp L, Brien K, Moodley S, Wolf A, Grant AD, Padayatchi N,
262 Pym AS, Balloux F, O'Donnell M. Population-level emergence of bedaquiline and
263 clofazimine resistance-associated variants among patients with drug-resistant
264 tuberculosis in southern Africa: a phenotypic and phylogenetic analysis. *The Lancet*
265 *Microbe* 2020; 1: e165–e174.
- 266 27. Tahseen S, Van Deun A, de Jong BC, Decroo T. Second-line injectable drugs for
267 rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis: better the devil we know? *Journal of Antimicrobial*
268 *Chemotherapy* [Internet] 2020 [cited 2021 Jan 1]; Available from:
269 <https://doi.org/10.1093/jac/dkaa489>.
- 270 28. Chiang C-Y, Trébucq A, Piubello A, Rieder HL, Schwoebel V, Van Deun A. The looming
271 threat of bedaquiline resistance in tuberculosis. *Eur Respir J* 2020; 55: 2000718.
- 272 29. Tiberi S, Cabibbe AM, Tomlins J, Cirillo DM, Migliori GB. Bedaquiline Phenotypic and
273 Genotypic Susceptibility Testing, Work in Progress! *EBioMedicine* 2018; 29: 11–12.

- 274 30. Salfinger M, Migliori GB. Bedaquiline: 10 years later, the drug susceptibility testing
275 protocol is still pending. *Eur Respir J* 2015; 45: 317–321.
- 276 31. Lee A, Xie YL, Barry CE, Chen RY. Current and future treatments for tuberculosis | The
277 BMJ [Internet]. [cited 2020 Dec 12]. p. m216Available from:
278 <https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m216.full.print>.
- 279 32. Kort F, Fournier Le Ray L, Chauffour A, Jarlier V, Lounis N, Andries K, Aubry A,
280 Guglielmetti L, Veziris N. Fully weekly antituberculosis regimen: a proof-of-concept
281 study. *Eur Respir J* 2020; 56.
- 282 33. Tweed CD, Dawson R, Burger DA, Conradie A, Crook AM, Mendel CM, Conradie F,
283 Diacon AH, Ntinginya NE, Everitt DE, Haraka F, Li M, van Niekerk CH, Okwera A, Rassool
284 MS, Reither K, Sebe MA, Staples S, Variava E, Spigelman M. Bedaquiline, moxifloxacin,
285 pretomanid, and pyrazinamide during the first 8 weeks of treatment of patients with
286 drug-susceptible or drug-resistant pulmonary tuberculosis: a multicentre, open-label,
287 partially randomised, phase 2b trial. *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine* 2019; 7: 1048–
288 1058.
- 289 34. Phillips PPJ, Mitnick CD, Neaton JD, Nahid P, Lienhardt C, Nunn AJ. Keeping phase III
290 tuberculosis trials relevant: Adapting to a rapidly changing landscape. *PLoS Med* 2019;
291 16: e1002767.
- 292 35. Cegielski JP, Nahid P, Sotgiu G. The continued hunt for the elusive standard short
293 regimen for treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. *European Respiratory*
294 *Journal* [Internet] European Respiratory Society; 2020 [cited 2020 Dec 27]; 55Available
295 from: <https://erj.ersjournals.com/content/55/3/2000224>.
- 296 36. Guglielmetti L, Low M, McKenna L. Challenges in TB regimen development: preserving
297 evidentiary standards for regulatory decisions and policymaking. *Expert Review of Anti-*
298 *infective Therapy* 2020; 18: 701–704.
- 299 37. Cellamare M, Milstein M, Ventz S, Baudin E, Trippa L, Mitnick CD. Bayesian adaptive
300 randomization in a clinical trial to identify new regimens for MDR-TB: the endTB trial.
301 *The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease* 2016; 20: 8–12.
- 302 38. Horsburgh CR, Shea KM, Phillips P, LaValley M. Randomized clinical trials to identify
303 optimal antibiotic treatment duration. *Trials* 2013; 14: 88.
- 304 39. Nyang'wa B-T, LaHood A, Mitnick CD, Guglielmetti L. TB Research Requires Strong
305 Protections, Innovation, and Increased Funding in Response to COVID-19. *Trials* 2021;
306 In press.
- 307 40. Moodley R, Godec TR. Short-course treatment for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis: the
308 STREAM trials. *Eur Respir Rev* 2016; 25: 29–35.

309