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Utilization of Xpert MTB/RIF in the diagnosis of tuberculosis in people living with HIV/AIDS in Ekiti State, Nigeria

Adeoti A O¹, Ogunidipe K¹, Seluwa A² and Orojo J²

¹EKSUTH, Nigeria

²Ministry of Health, Nigeria

Statement of the Problem: Tuberculosis is a major cause of mortality and morbidity in people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). A rapid and accurate diagnosis is imperative for the reduction of tuberculosis (TB) among PLHIV. This study was aimed at determining the utilization of a novel test, Xpert MTB/RIF, in the diagnosis of TB among PLHIV in Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Method: A cross-sectional study was conducted between January and December 2016 among PLHIV. Presumptive tuberculosis cases were identified among PLHIV during their routine clinic visits using the standardized questions of current cough, fever, weight loss and night sweat. Specimens collected were sent for Xpert MTB/RIF test and quality control procedure was ensured in the laboratory.

Results: PLHIV constituted 480 (30.6%) of all presumptive tuberculosis cases screened using Xpert MTB/RIF in Ekiti state. There was female preponderance with male to female ratio of 1 to 3. Mean age of patients was 43.14±9.18 years and average CD4 count of 396.6±203.1 cells/ul. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was detected in 38 (7.9%) of the PLHIV, with 2(5.3%) of them being rifampin resistant. The frequency of the symptoms among the PLHIV was cough (92%), fever (54%), weight loss (67%) and night sweat (23%).

Conclusion & Significance: Xpert MTB/RIF is a novel diagnostic test with immense benefit for rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis in PLHIV, especially in the low/middle income countries. However, more judicious use is required in cases of extra-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Biography

Adeoti A O is a Clinician working on Tuberculosis and HIV at the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

kadeoti2002@yahoo.com

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