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## Improving weak links in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis

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**IMPROVING WEAK LINKS IN THE DIAGNOSIS AND  
TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS**

Antonia Morita Iswari Saktiawati

18 September 2019

1. TB service can be portrayed as a chain of sequential factors; the strength of the chain is determined by its weakest link (*this thesis*).
2. Breath tests have potential as a screening test for TB, but further development is needed to increase the sensitivity and to turn it into a point-of-care test (*this thesis*).
3. While waiting for an accurate and point-of-care diagnostic tool, improving a routine TB diagnostic work-up in the primary health centers can be done by using clinical evaluation, sputum smear microscopy, and chest radiography all together (*this thesis*).
4. Several factors including concomitant food intake influence the bioavailability of TB drugs, and therefore, an individual approach is required for patients at risk for low drug exposure (*this thesis*).
5. An optimal sampling strategy is an essential component of therapeutic drug monitoring programs aiming to personalize oral dosing for adult TB patients (*this thesis*).
6. Further studies are needed addressing TB drugs administered by inhalation, not only to replace intravenous administration, but also to reduce TB transmission (*this thesis*).
7. Without enhanced efforts to improve TB programs and novel drug development, we face the daunting perspective of going back to the era when no effective treatment was available, resulting in a high risk of dying from this 9000 years-old of disease.
8. Rice in Indonesia, sour foods in Poland, cheese in the Netherlands - TB-affected countries should tailor the TB management strategies according to their local resources and needs.
9. 'What doesn't kill you makes you stronger' (*Friedrich Nietzsche*) does not apply to lungs remaining damaged after TB treatment completion.
10. 'Danger is real, but fear is a choice' (*Will Smith - After Earth*).