

## TRAJTIMI I TUBERKULOZIT NË SHQIPË RI: REZULTATET E MJEKIMIT PËR VITET 2001-2006

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### Summary

#### THE TREATMENT OUTCOMES FOR TB PATIENTS IN ALBANIA FROM 2001-2006

**Background:** Tuberculosis (TB) disease was a major public health problem in Albania for many decades. National control efforts have been successful in the past, but largely based on the prophylaxis and characterized by high burden of human and economical cost. In 2001, to respond to the new social and economical reality, a project based on the DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) strategy was initiated. We have preferred a gradual implementation of DOTS strategy, as the epidemiological situation of TB in Albania was considered more or less stable. A combination of a hospital-based model (diagnosis and intensive phase) and a rural-based model (case finding and follow up) for the treatment of tuberculosis is chosen as the initial strategy.

This is the first survey analyzing TB treatment outcomes based on WHO/IUATLD indicators and recommendations (World Health Organization/ International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases).

**Objective:** To evaluate tuberculosis treatment outcome using treatment indicators recommended by the WHO and the IUATLD.

**Methods:** Retrospective cohort analysis of all TB patients notified during 2001-2006. TB related information was registered and analyzed using TB district registers, validated during monitoring visits and registered in National TB register. Data were included according to WHO/IUATLD recommendations. Stratified analyses were performed according to sex and the age at diagnosis, smear status, HIV status, pulmonary and extra pulmonary form, new and retreated cases, treatment outcomes and residence.

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**Results:** DOTS is implemented in 50% of the country. Proportion of treatment outcome with regard to the indicator over six years was respectively: 81% treatment success rate; 3% death, 7% defaulter; 1% failure and 8% unknown cases. Meantime in DOTS areas, proportion of treatment success was 88%, constant and much higher compare to the Non DOTS areas every year. Proportion of treatment success was also better for females compare to male.

**Conclusion:** Treatment success rate of TB in Albania is good but doesn't meet the goal of 85% set by the WHO. Meanwhile, the goal is achieved in DOTS areas, strategy that covers 50% of the country. Thus, expansion of DOTS strategy ensuring a high quality of its implementation for in entire country is substantial for TB control, improvement of treatment outcome and achievement of WHO target.

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