

## **TUBERCULOSIS IN EGYPT**

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*M. tuberculosis* (Koch's rod) - the type of mycobacteria causing tuberculosis in the person in 92% of cases. The bacterium was opened in 1882 by Robert Koch. The mycobacteria of bovis cause tuberculosis both in cattle, and in the person. The main ways of spreading of *M. tuberculosis* are aerogenic (main), nutritional, through the damaged skin or mucosal and through a placenta. Bovine tuberculosis (TB) can be transmitted by consuming unpasteurized dairy products from infected cattle.

Any person can infect tuberculosis, but some factors enlarge risk of infection: the weakened immunity, some diseases and drugs weakening immune system, a bad delivery, early or advanced age, regional distribution, poverty and an alcohol abuse and narcotics, smoking.

Tuberculosis (TB) is endemic in Egypt. 10 more years ago the Egypt had a TB case rate of 20/100K or more. When assessing the epidemiological situation, we use the main statistical indicators - incidence, morbidity, mortality, and est. Incidence - the number of persons, for the first time the patients with tuberculosis within a year, on 100 thousand populations. Morbidity - quantity having tuberculosis on 100 thousand population found and registered on the end of the year. Mortality - the number of the dead from tuberculosis within a year on 100 thousand populations. Contamination - the part of the persons which are positively reacting on tuberculin during diagnostic, expressed as a percentage.

Measures to combat tuberculosis, developed by the Egyptian Ministry of Health, have proved effective. This conclusion was reached by experts of the World Health Organization, which recently included Egypt in the list of countries with a low incidence of tuberculosis. According to the latest statistics, an average of 100 thousand Egyptians is 26 cases of tuberculosis, this figure in the near future are planning to reduce almost threefold. The strategy for combating the disease includes mass vaccination of the population, equipping hospitals with modern equipment and providing preferential assistance to citizens who are unable to pay for a course of medical treatment.

DOTS. Now WHO lays great hopes on introduction of the new technology of identification and treatment of tuberculosis called DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-course) providing strictly controlled treatment by rather short course of chemotherapy.