

Some of the Side Effects of Anti Tubercular Drug

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Tuberculosis was a kind of very common disease in the past common in poor under developed Asian COUNTRIES due to poor hygiene overcrowding more people sleeping together in one room poor ventilation with poor food efficient in proteins and vitamins children not being vaccinated like BCG.

However with better awareness better education and faecal facilities this disease is now completely eradicated. However there may be few sporadic cases in far flung areas. Symptoms of the disease Persistent cough evening rise of temperature loss of weight and appetite and haemoptysis.

Diagnosis is made by chest x-ray Sputum examination by Zeil-Nelson stain to demonstrate a FB 3 consecutive tests have to be positive for AFB.

We can inoculate it in Lowenstein's media to grow AFB. In past there was initially no treatment for TB.

It used to be kind of sanatoria where patients of tuberculosis were admitted and given good food and kind of fresh air.

There came INJ streptomycin with INH and PAS which was given for 6 months to 1 year patients had to be admitted.

Second line of drugs

- Pyrazinamide
- Thioacetazone.

At present we have one of the best drugs for TB. It is ethambutol patients are not admitted at all they get the drug from the TB center and take the treatment at home. First period is 3 months or more however this drug has ocular side effects on patients on this drug should have regular eye examination before and during the treatment. Ocular side effects are changes in colour vision first red and then green changes in visual fields refraction and vision optic neuritis which is dose dependent once we reduce the dose optic neuritis becomes reversible.

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