



Workshop on implementation of New TB Drug and Regimen for Drug Resistant TB Treatment in Vietnam

A workshop on implementation of the new TB drug Bedaquiline and the regimen for drug resistant TB Treatment in Vietnam was held at the Vietnam National Lung hospital on December 15 as part of partnership project implemented by National TB Control Program, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Janssen Therapeutics of Johnson & Johnson.

Bedaquiline has been developed by Janssen Therapeutics of Johnson & Johnson. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Janssen Therapeutics, signed an agreement to provide Bedaquiline free to eligible MDR-TB patients, according to WHO interim recommendations on the use of the drug. According to experts, this partnership has proved to be a significant step forward in the global fight against the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Tuberculosis remains one of the most common communicable diseases in Viet Nam, with 130,000 new cases and 17,000 deaths being reported every year. As the public health burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis mounts, Viet Nam is among the first countries in the world to receive the Bedaquiline donation to support its continuing battle against the disease.

USAID Vietnam, the health ministry's national tuberculosis programme, the KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and other partners attended an event at the National Lung Hospital to launch the donation programme with the delivery of medicines to more than 100 patients fighting pre-extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis and extensive drug-resistant tuberculosis in the country. This event also saw the launch of a shorter nine-month regimen for a more cost-effective treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Viet Nam.

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