

**DRUG RESISTANCE OF *MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS*
STRAINS ISOLATED FROM HIV-INFECTED ITALIAN PATIENTS:
PRELIMINARY REPORT FROM A MULTICENTRIC STUDY**

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A multicentric prospective study started in March '93 to describe both initial and acquired resistance of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in Italian HIV+ patients (pts.) to first line drugs: Rifampin (R), Isoniazid (I), Pyrazinamide (P), Ethambutol (E), Streptomycin (S). All tuberculosis (TB) cases diagnosed in HIV+ patients (pts.) were included, along with clinical-anamnestical data. Drug-susceptibility tests were performed centrally. Preliminary results indicate an overall low frequency of TB resistance to first-line drugs: R=2%, P=4%, S=9%, I/E=none. However, a relevant nosocomial outbreak of multiple drug resistant (DR) TB was detected. This finding, along with some previous Italian reports of DR-TB clusters, may herald a further spread of DR-TB. Surveillance, therefore, is mandatory in Italy from now on.