



EDITORIAL

TOWARDS IMPROVED/ SPEEDY DIAGNOSIS FOR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a leading cause of human morbidity and mortality despite decades of effective treatment being available. Precise and timely diagnosis remains an unmet target. The HIV pandemic has also introduced new challenges in TB diagnosis.

Much of the difficulty in diagnosis and care of TB patients lies in speed and reliability in diagnosis of disease. Many of the tools used for TB diagnosis 90 years ago are still in use today. Diagnosis of TB in paediatrics is still a challenge today as well.

Newer diagnostic tools/ methods are becoming increasingly useful in timely diagnosis of TB. These include interferon gamma release assay, new light emitting diode (LED) fluorescent microscopy, liquid culture media, polymerase chain reaction and line probe assays. These are set to improve on speed of diagnosis of TB and hence improve on treatment.

The large burden of TB is in developing countries. It is important that these technologies are also transferred to these countries.



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Dr Hudson A. Lodenyo,
Consultant Physician & Gastroenterologist
Centre for Clinical Research

**KENYA MEDICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE (KEMRI)**