

F.10 - Pyrazinamide (500 mg tablet)

MSF strongly supports the proposal of the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility to include pyrazinamide 500 mg tablet in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines (EML), in the core list of anti-tuberculosis medicines.

Currently, the EML includes four oral formulations of pyrazinamide: oral liquid 30 mg/ml, 400 mg tablet, 150 mg scored tablet and 150 mg dispersible tablet.

According to the recommendations of the 2017 update of the WHO "Guidelines for treatment of drug-susceptible tuberculosis and patient care", of the 2020 WHO "Consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis, module 4: treatment – drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment" and of the 2020 WHO "Operational handbook on tuberculosis", pyrazinamide is indicated in the treatment of drug-susceptible tuberculosis and in the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis. The WHO recommended daily dose of pyrazinamide is 30-35mg/kg/day.

Anti-tuberculosis treatment requires to take a large number of pills over several months. The high daily pill burden can result in poor adherence, leading to poor treatment outcomes and premature termination, with a risk of relapse, increased morbidity and mortality, and resistance to anti-tuberculosis medicines. The use of the 500 mg oral formulation will allow to reduce the daily pill burden and therefore, to increase adherence and efficacy. Pyrazinamide 500 mg tablet is affordable and widely available.

MSF has been using pyrazinamide in its programs since 1998.

MSF urges the 23rd Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to include pyrazinamide 500 mg tablet in the WHO Essential Medicines List, in the core list of anti-tuberculosis medicines.

For Médecins Sans Frontières



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