Writing a paper:
Introduction

Example: Recurrent tuberculosis

By prof.S.G.Hinderaker

(Courtesy of A.D.Harries)

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE (2000) 94, 247–249

Relapse and recurrent tuberculosis in the context of a National Tuberculosis Control Programme

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Courtesy of AD Harries

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Before you start

- What is the **main** message?
- What is new?
- Which journal?
- Which audience?
- Which format?
  - Original article
  - Short communication
  - Review

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Introduction

- Set the scene - What is the general problem?
- Specific question to be addressed
- What has been done before - the latest research
- Don't over-cite
- Problems with previous research
- What is still unknown? Gaps?
- What's new? - Marketing!
- Conclude intro with objectives – 1-2 sentences

Courtesy of T.Reid

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INTRODUCTION: Outline

- Describe the present situation and the background to why you have carried out this study
- Avoid a long comprehensive review
- State clearly the aim of the study

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ANNUAL TB RECURRENCE

	HIV+ve	HIV-ve	
Zaire	18%	6%	(Perriens et al 1991)
Kenya	17%	0.5%	(Hawken et al 1993)
Zambia	22%	6%	(Elliott et al 1995)
S.Africa	16%	6%	(Sonnenberg et al 2001)

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PREVIOUS STUDIES

These studies have found that recurrence is increased in patients who were infected with HIV

Therefore where HIV-infection rates are high we should find increased recurrence rates of TB

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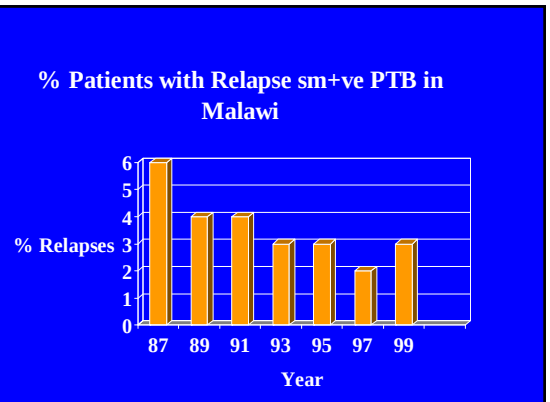

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1987 - 1999

No recurrent cases of smear-negative PTB or EPTB

recorded in TB registers

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HIV among TB patients in Malawi

Year	Site	No. TB	% HIV+ve
1986	Zomba	125	26
1993	Mzuzu	167	67
1994	Blantyre	665	75
1995	Zomba	793	77
2000	Malawi	512	77

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THE PROBLEM

- In Malawi, despite rising HIV-prevalence rates, relapse TB cases have stayed the same and there have been no registered cases of recurrent smear-negative PTB or EPTB
- Previously treated patients need a stronger regimen and must be identified
- Maybe the NTP is missing recurrent TB under routine programme conditions

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AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study was to determine whether patients with relapse smear+ve PTB and recurrent smear-negative PTB / EPTB were being missed under routine programme conditions in Malawi

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INTRODUCTION
Setting the scene (1)

- Africa is currently faced by two intersecting epidemics – HIV and tuberculosis (TB)
- This has resulted in an tremendous increase in case notifications, with increasing morbidity and mortality in HIV-infected TB patients.
- An increase in recurrent TB also appears to be a problem

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INTRODUCTION:
Previous studies (2)

Previous studies have found that recurrence is increased in patients who were infected with HIV

Therefore where HIV-infection rates are high we should find increased recurrence rates of TB

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INTRODUCTION:
The problem and study rationale (3)

- In Malawi, despite rising HIV-prevalence rates, relapse TB cases have stayed the same and there have been no registered cases of recurrent smear-negative PTB or EPTB
- Our hypothesis is that the NTP is missing recurrent TB under routine program conditions

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INTRODUCTION:
The aim of the study (4)

This study was undertaken to determine whether patients with relapse smear-positive Pulmonary TB and recurrent smear-negative TB are being incorrectly registered as “new” TB under routine programme conditions

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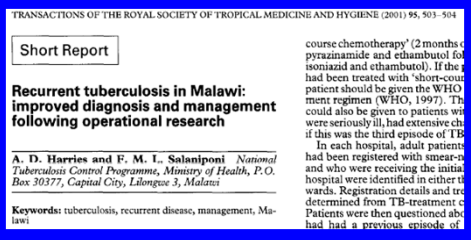

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND HYGIENE (2001) 95, 503–504

Short Report

Recurrent tuberculosis in Malawi: improved diagnosis and management following operational research

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Keywords: tuberculosis, recurrent disease, management, Malawi

course chemotherapy' (2 months
pyrazinamide and ethambutol fo
isoniazid and ethambutol). If the
had been treated with 'short-cour
patient should be given the WHO
ment regimen (WHO, 1997). Th
could also be given to patients wi
were seriously ill, had extensive ch
if this was the third episode of TB
In each hospital, adult patients
had been registered with smear-n
and who were receiving the initia
hospital were identified in either t
wards. Registration details and tre
determined from TB-treatment c
Patients were then questioned ab
had had a previous episode of

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