TB or not TB

Easier-to-take Treatments

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More pills over a longer time at a higher price? Or fewer, shorter, cheaper? That is the question. When it comes to tuberculosis (TB), PWAs can drop the Hamlet pose: A six-year study in 1,583 HIV positive people with latent TB (positive skin test, but no active infection) found that taking rifampin (450 to 600 mg daily) with pyrazinamide (20 mg per kg of body weight daily) for only two months is as effective in preventing full-blown disease as the standard 12-month course of isoniazid (300 mg daily). This is good news for adherence, since many people never finish a year-long regimen. And it’s even better news for populations in parts of the world where the expense and difficulty have made the standard treatment impossible to use.

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