

Janssen provides free courses of anti-TB drug bedaquiline

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Source: John Zaracostas

Mario Raviglione, global TB programme director for the World Health Organization, described the bedaquiline donation programme as a historic development

“This is a historical development,” says Mario Raviglione, global TB programme director for the World Health Organization (WHO). “For the first time we have the release of a new drug for MDR-TB being released on a large scale.”

Under the partnership, the manufacturer will donate 30,000 six-month courses over the next four years valued at an estimated US\$30m. To date, 28 countries have asked to be beneficiaries, but up to 100 countries may be entitled to receive the drug for free.

According to the WHO, only 48% of MDR-TB patients have a successful treatment outcome. The global health agency also says that in 2013 an estimated 480,000 people developed MDR-TB and 210,000 people died of the disease.

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