

## **Abstract**

**Tuberculosis has continued to be an important health issue for Taiwan, with a incidence rate of over 60 per 100,000. In addition, cure rate is less than 80%. In sight of low cure rates and development of drug resistant TB strains, the World Health Organization (WHO) has suggested Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS).**

**This strategy aims at providing stringent observations to ensure intake of every dose of drug, timely accomplishment of therapy, and prevention of drug resistance.**

**WHO believes that the use of DOTS will be able to increase cure rate to 95%.**

**In the year 2000, 147 countries of WHO around the world had began using DOTS, covering 55% of the world population. In the year 1999, of new smear-positive patients undergoing DOTS, cure rate was 27.6%.**

**This study selected smear-positive tuberculosis patients from Tzu-Chi Hospital and Mennoite Hospital that had not been treated before. In addition, these patients lived in Hualien and underwent DOTS using 6 months of fully observed short course chemotherapy. Patients were given daily dosages during a 2-week hospital admission. Afterwards, patients were given 2 doses every week for the following 24 weeks. All drug doses were given to the patient by the research assistant and made sure the drugs were taken appropriately.**

**Thirty-nine patients were enrolled in this study. Ten patients had completed the treatment course. Three patients stopped out due to side-effects (liver function abnormalities), and 7 patients dropped out due to drug-resistance.**

**Keywords : Tuberculosis ; Directly Observed Treatment short-course**