HIV/TB - An Unholy Alliance

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Tuberculosis is the commonest chronic opportunistic infection in HIV/AIDS. It accounts for up to third or more of AIDS deaths worldwide. Half the people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWAH) develop new or reactivated TB, and up to 30% sputum positive TB, cases turn out to be HIV positive in some Sub-Saharan African countries. Herewith is the HIV/TB report card, prepared on 1/12/2006, based on data from Global TB Control/WHO, and Global AIDS Epidemic/UNAID. India as an individual country tops in having the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS, which should have been recognised by us long ago, as an ominous warning. Consider the sinister, lurking threat of extensive drug resistant (XDR)-TB, ART resistance and resource constraints. Time to wake up; a full review/guidelines article in JAPI is necessary. Effective treatment of TB will not solve worldwide TB/AIDS crisis, but will significantly reduce its burden.