



# A composite reference standard is needed for bedaquiline antimicrobial susceptibility testing for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex

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**A composite reference standard minimises false-susceptible AST results for bedaquiline**

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*To the Editor:*

We echo the latest calls that have been made to increase the capacity for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) for bedaquiline for the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex [1, 2]. However, we would like to highlight the limitations of using insufficiently standardised or validated phenotypic AST methods and breakpoints as the reference standard for bedaquiline AST. Moreover, we advocate for adoption of a composite reference standard that considers genotypic AST results to minimise false-susceptible results for borderline/low-level resistance mechanisms and avoid confusion during clinical decision-making.

