

Text S1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

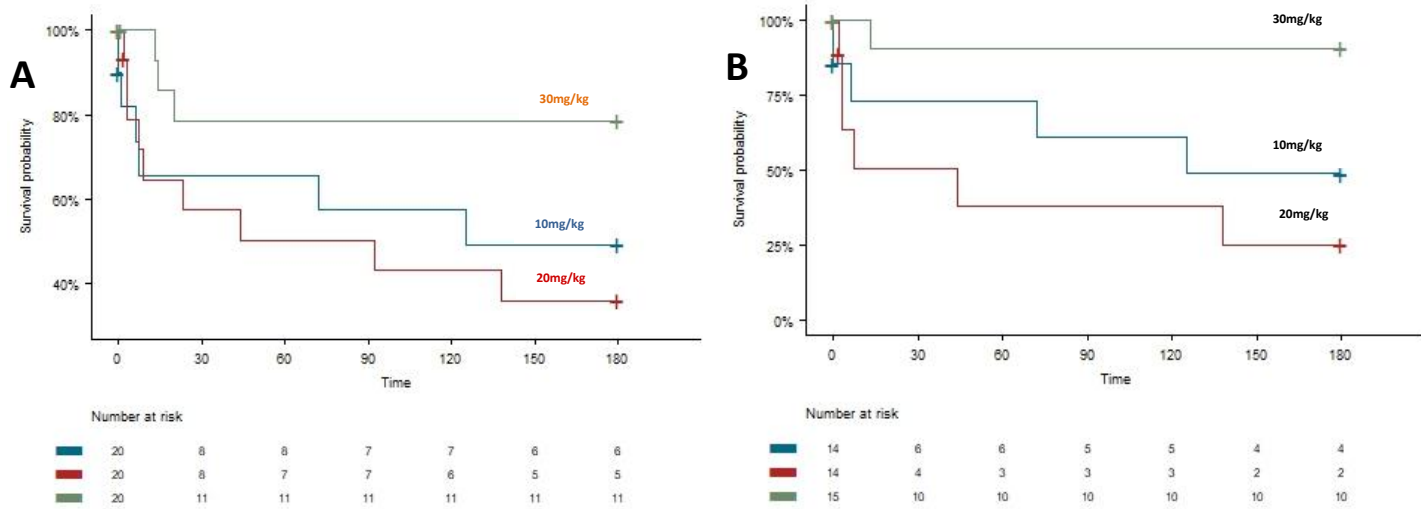
Inclusion criteria:

1. Male or female, aged 15 years or above.
2. Clinical suspicion of TBM and CSF/blood glucose ratio < 0.5 .
3. None or less than 3 days of anti-tuberculosis chemotherapy taken for the current infection.
4. Females who are able to become pregnant (i.e., are not postmenopausal, have not undergone surgical sterilization, and are sexually active with men) agree to use at least one effective form of nonhormonal contraception from the date of informed consent through to the end of study.
5. Willingness to allow storage of specimens.
6. Patient or representative (if the patient is incapacitated) is willing and able to give informed consent for participation in the study.

Exclusion criteria:

1. No CSF data available to enable a diagnosis of microbiologically confirmed (definite) or probable TBM.
2. Liver dysfunction (ALT > 5 times upper limit); kidney dysfunction (eGFR < 50 ml/min).
3. Pregnancy or breastfeeding (negative urine pregnancy test for all females of child-bearing age).
4. Confirmed Cryptococcus meningitis (lateral flow assay, LFA) in HIV-positive patients; or diagnosed as bacterial meningitis based on clinical assessment and routine CSF examination.
5. Rapid clinical deterioration at time of presentation (e.g. sepsis, decreasing consciousness or signs of cerebral edema, or herniation). It was considered unethical to bother rapidly deteriorating patients with this study that had pharmacokinetic measures as primary endpoint.
6. History of hypersensitivity/intolerance to rifampicin.
7. Potential non-compliant subjects as judged by investigator, i.e. homeless patients, patients with severe mental disorders, patients with no drug intake observer.

Fig. S1. Survival according to rifampicin treatment in all patients and in patients with mycobacteriologically proven (definite) TBM



Explanation: Rifampicin dose as predictor for 6-month mortality due to tuberculous meningitis. Kaplan-Meier curves with survival tables for numbers at risk for all patients (**A**) and for patients with mycobacteriologically-proven (definite) tuberculous meningitis (**B**). Hazard ratio (HR) adjusted for HIV status and GCS: (all patients) 0.44 (95% CI 0.1-1.9, $p=0.27$) and (patients with definite tuberculous meningitis) 0.23 (95% CI 0.03-2.05, $p=0.19$).