Edible sensor helps TB patients take their meds: study
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Poor adherence to treatment has long been associated with continued transmission and the emergence of drug-resistant strains of TB.

An ingestible sensor that allows doctors to remotely monitor tuberculosis patients' intake of medication has the potential to save millions of lives and revolutionise treatment for the world's most deadly infectious disease, researchers said Friday.

A randomised trial of 77 patients in California, published in the journal *PLOS Medicine*, found that 93 percent of patients using the sensor were taking their daily treatment doses, compared with 63 percent who did not.

The vast majority of TB deaths occur in developing nations, led by India.

Mark Cotton, professor of pediatrics and child health at Stellenbosch University, said the technology could have a profound effect on tuberculosis rates and deaths in high-risk countries.

"If we are serious about eliminating TB then we have to get some fundamental things right such as increased support for patient care that efficiently helps patients complete all of their treatment," said Sara Browne, Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of California San Diego, who led the trial.

"WOT could potentially be a lifesaver for millions."

More information: Sara H. Browne et al, Wirelessly observed therapy compared to directly observed therapy to confirm and support tuberculosis treatment adherence: A randomized controlled trial, *PLOS Medicine* (2019). DOI: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1002891

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