281. Extrapulmonary tuberculosis and surgical interventions

P2669
Serum and pleural fluid cytokines in pleural tuberculosis with and without lung parenchyma involvement

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Pleural tuberculosis (PT) is frequent form of extrapulmonary disease. In the pleural cavity, activated T lymphocytes produce cytokines in response to the mycobacteria and its antigens. Lung parenchyma can be concomitantly involved in up to 40% of cases.

Objective: To compare serum (S) and pleural fluid (PF) levels of inflammatory mediators in patients with PT in order to verify if lung-associated involvement influences the magnitude of the inflammatory response.

Methods: A prospective study of 39 patients with pleural (20) or pleuropulmonary (19) tuberculosis was conducted. IL-8, VEGF, TNF-α, and TGF-β1 were quantified by ELISA.

Results: The proinflammatory cytokines TNF-α and IL-8 were higher in PF than in S of patients with the pleural form, while only IL-8 was higher in the pleuropulmonary form. Only PF TNF-α was capable to discriminate both forms of TB disease.

Pleural and Serum variables analyzed in patients with pleural and pleuropulmonary tuberculosis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cytokines</th>
<th>Pleural TB</th>
<th>Pleural PF</th>
<th>p</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VEGF PF</td>
<td>1207 (931-1448)</td>
<td>1509 (966-1396)</td>
<td>0.085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VEGF S</td>
<td>780 (221-1254)</td>
<td>1190 (507-1975)</td>
<td>0.160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF-α PF</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td>0.085</td>
<td>0.520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNF-α S</td>
<td>119 (72-233)</td>
<td>429 (155-474)</td>
<td>0.025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGF-β1 PF</td>
<td>1509 (1393-1787)</td>
<td>1512 (1281-1885)</td>
<td>0.792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGF-β1 S</td>
<td>31 (31-128)</td>
<td>31 (31-129)</td>
<td>0.496</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Although TNF-α levels had been higher in the PF of patients with PT and lung involvement, we suggest its dosage in association with computed tomography in order to identify these patients, since they represent potential source of infection and disease spread.

P2670
The use of ADA liquid level in diagnosis of tuberculosis pleurisy in countries with low incidence of tuberculosis

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Aims and objectives: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the sensitivity of ADA level in the diagnosis of tuberculous pleurisy among patients from areas of low TB incidence.

Methods: A prospective study of 39 patients with pleural (20) or pleuropulmonary (19) tuberculosis was conducted. Adenosine Deaminase (ADA).

Results: RT-PCR was positive in 134 of the 153 cases of exudative tuberculosis effusions (Sensitivity 87.6%). It was positive in 114 of 127 cases of pleural effusion (Sensitivity 89.7%), 17 out of 21 cases of ascitic fluid and 3 of the 5 cases of pericardial effusion.

Conclusions: The sensitivity of ADA was 60%. Culture by LJ medium was 33.9% and BACTEC was 53.6%. ADA showed positivity in 144 of 153 cases (Sensitivity 94.1%) and INF-γ showed sensitivity of 83.6%.

P2671
Evaluation of real time polymerase chain reaction in rapid diagnosis of exudative tuberular effusions

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Introduction: Exudative effusions are a common manifestation of tuberculosis. Real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) has superior sensitivity, specificity, lower contamination and reduction in time to result in comparison to conventional methods.

Aims and objectives: To evaluate the sensitivity of RT-PCR in cases of exudative effusions due to tuberculosis.

Methods: RT-PCR was performed in 153 patients of exudative tubercular effusions. They consisted of 127 pleural effusions, 21 ascitic fluid and 5 pericardial effusions. All patients had positive Mantoux test with high protein and lymphocyte predominance in effusion. The subjects were positive by either ZN staining, culture for AFB by growth on LJ medium or BACTEC, Interferon γ (INF-γ) or Adenosine Deaminase (ADA).

Results: RT-PCR was performed by detecting amplification reaction for the insert element IS6110 of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (Biotub-GT, Biotubs Labs, Spain) using a real-time centrifugal amplification system (Rotor-Gene 3000, Corbett Research, Australia). Results: RT-PCR was positive in 134 of the 153 cases of exudative tuberculosis effusions (Sensitivity 87.6%). It was positive in 114 of 127 cases of pleural effusion (Sensitivity 89.7%), 17 out of 21 cases of ascitic fluid and 3 of the 5 cases of pericardial effusion.

Conclusions: The sensitivity of ZN staining was 23.5%. Culture by LJ medium was 33.9% and BACTEC was 53.6%. ADA showed positivity in 144 of 153 cases (Sensitivity 94.1%) and INF-γ showed sensitivity of 83.6%.

P2672
Adult thoracic empyema: A comparative analysis of tuberculous and nontuberculous etiology in 75 patients

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Background: Thoracic empyema is a disease of significant morbidity and mortality in the developing world where tuberculosis is a common cause. Clinical outcomes in tuberculous empyema are complicated by fibrinocavitary disease and bronchopleural fistula.

Materials and methods: A prospective study compare the clinical profiles and outcomes of patients with tuberculous and nontuberculous empyema was performed.

Results: The best cut off value of pleural fluid ADA level in diagnosis of TB was 95 U/L. In many cases ADA levels in non-tuberculous exudative pleural effusions exceeded the cut off values of tubercular disease (40 U/L). Adenosine deaminase level of less than 40 U/L in patients < 35 years excludes the tubercular etiology of exudative pleural effusion.

Conclusions: Tuberculous empyema is a common cause of empyema thoracis in a developing country. Tuberculous empyema differs from nontuberculous empyema in the age profile, clinical presentation, management issues, and has a significantly poorer outcome.
Background: Liquid culture media are reported to increase the yield of positive mycobacterial cultures in sputum by 10-20% but its value for pleural fluid is not well established.

Method: We investigated 66 consecutive patients with exudative effusions of suspected inflammatory or infectious nature in a single session and directly compared the yields for a diagnosis of TB of a spot sputum smear and pleural fluid ADA and cell count, low volume (5ml) and high volume (100ml) liquid mycobacterial culture and pleural biopsy histology and culture. A final diagnosis of TB was established in 50 patients (78.5%) by histological proof of granulomatous inflammation or any positive culture. All TB cultures were performed in an automated liquid culture system (MGIT 960, Becton Dickinson).

Results: Available results among these 50 patients indicated the following respective yields:
- ADA assay for ADA: 50 U/l; 32/46 (70%) for ADA<50 U/l combined with lymphocyte predominance and; 31/46 (67.4%) for pleural fluid culture (low volume: 56.5%; high volume: 63%; p<0.01).
- Non invasive testing (sputum and pleural fluid analysis) had 100% yield with 72% microbiologically proven cases. The yield of pleural biopsy was 44/49 (89.8%: culture: 33/44, 75%; histology: 40/49, 81.6%).

Conclusion: Liquid mycobacterial culture has an exceptionally high yield in both pleural fluid and tissue and should be routinely used.

P2673
High yield of liquid mycobacterial culture in pleural fluid and tissue
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Background: The diagnostic of pleural TB was made by detection of acid fast bacilli in sputum. The mycobacterial cultures in sputum by Tsil-Nelson in 16 (13,1%) patients, by PCR in 27 (22,1%). By culture method MBT in sputum was detected in 21 (17,2%) cases, in pleural fluid –in 12 (9,8%). Blood- sedimentation test was noted in 102 (83,6%), leukocytosis in 105 (86,1%). Revolt positive test was revealed in exudate in 23 (18,9%). Treatment was managed by standard scheme of DOTS strategy and with punctures of pleural sac. Liquidation and resorption of exudate was obtained within 8-28 days from treatment date.

Conclusion: Exudative pleural diagnostics is a challenge. It should be paid an important place to general medical network doctors’ high concern in regard to TB.

P2676
Advantage of chest tube drainage in tuberculous pleurisy without active pulmonary tuberculosis
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Introduction: Early effective drainage may hasten clearance of pleural effusion and reduce the occurrence of residual pleural thickening (RPT) in patients with symptomatic loculated tuberculous pleurisy (TBP).

Objectives: To evaluate the effects of a large-bore chest tube drainage (CTD) with a small-bore percutaneous drainage (PCD) or no-drainage group in TBP were compared.

Methods: We reviewed retrospectively the records of TBP patients without active pulmonary TB lesion that diagnosed by thoracoscopic biopsy or high ADA of pleural fluid from 2005, January to 2010, December. All patients were treated with anti-TB medication over 6 months. We divided into 4 groups (group A: no-drainage (n=7), group B: CTD without loculation (n=10), group C: CTD with loculation (n=9), group D: PCD with loculation (n=12)). We compared the RPT, days of hospitalization and tube inserted between group A vs B, and group C vs D.

Results: In non-loculated TBP patients, mild RPT were removed in 1 of 7 in group A and none of 10 in group B. In loculated TBP patients, mild RPT were removed in 1 of 9 in group C and 3 of 12 in group D, and moderate RPT were removed in only group D (2 in 12). Days of hospitalization were 8.7±1.5 in group A vs 10.6±3.3 in group B, and 17.6±10.2 in group C vs 10.4±6.9 in group D. Days of tube inserted were 6.8±2.3 in group C vs 4.6±2.8 in group D.

Conclusion: Although using a large-bore CTD needs longer days of admission and tubing, CTD was more effective than PCD in RPT reduction of loculated TBP. CTD was not advantageous to no-drainage with diagnostic thoracostomy in RPT reduction of non-loculated TBP, in addition to define drainage by thoracoscopic biopsy.

P2677
Pleural tuberculosis: A retrospective study in the tuberculous control unit of Blida between 2005 and 2009
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Introduction: Pleural tuberculosis is one of the most common sites of extrapulmonary tuberculosis, which represent 30% of all tuberculosis cases in Algeria. She reached preferentially the young adults.

Objectives and objectives: The aim of our study is to clarify the characteristics of the epidemiology, diagnosis, treatments and outcome of pleural tuberculosis and also to clarify the predisposing factors.

Methods: Our retrospective study concerned 117 cases of tuberculous pleurisy supported for 05 years from 2005 to 2009 among a total of 764 cases followed for extrapulmonary tuberculosis at the Blida tuberculosis control unit.

Results: Our study has assembled 67 men and 50 women with a mean age of 30 years. Comorbidities in number of 7 are represented by 4 cases of metabolic syndrome. The impairment is most often right sided in 57.2% of cases, and bilateral in 11% of cases. The investigations carried out showed a tuberculin allergy in 31.6% of cases. The histology diagnosis was mainly consisting in 42.7% of cases by finding caseofulcicular tuberculosis, and in 23.9% of cases by a tuberculosis inflammation. The antibiotic treatment was started in all cases with a favorable outcome to the healing in 50.4% of cases and with sequelae in 45.2% of cases. However, we noted 4 cases of lost sight and one patient transferred for therapeutic monitoring.

Conclusion: The management of tuberculous pleurisy is correlated by the improvement of diagnostic methods, certainty including pleural biopsy and thoracoscopy.

P2678
Specific pulmonary lesion in patients with tubercular spondylitis (TS)
Vucheslav Ziluzarñev1, Galina Vasilieva1, Pavel Gavrilov1

120 patients with active pulmonary tuberculosis (PT) and diagnosis of TS were studied. It was the patients at the age from 18 to 72 years old. The patients were examined due to complaints of spinal pain. These were mostly the lesions of...
Prasanna Wijerathne, Kulathunga Nishantha, Samadara Nakandala, Neranjan Dissanayake, Chathura Wirasinghe. Tuberculosis of pedicle destruction was found to have metastatic spinal disease. 22 completed five, imaging findings were atypical. One patient died and another with body and tissue in 28 patients, with paraspinal and psoas abscesses in some. In the remaining results: confirmation. All were given standard category I ATT, with prolonged regimen for neurologically complicated disease.

P2679
Practicing empirical anti-tuberculosis treatment (ATT) in suspected spinal tuberculosis (STB): Follow up of 33 cases from Sri Lanka, a limited resource setting with an intermediate disease burden

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Background: Some patients with clinically suspected STB are given empirical ATT under specialist supervision, without histological or microbiological confirmation of disease, due to lack of resources.

Aim: To assess the outcome following empirical ATT in a cohort with a clinical diagnosis of STB.

Methodology: 33 followed up 33 patients diagnosed with STB based on history, negative blood culture, spinal CT and/or MR imaging and supported by tuberculin test and inflammatory markers. None had microbiological or histological confirmation. All were given standard category 1 ATT, with prolonged regimen for neuropathologically complicated disease.

Results: CT/MRI showed end plate destruction/sclerosis and/or evidence of disc involvement in 28 patients, with paraspinal and psoas abscesses in some. In the remaining five, imaging features were atypical. One patient died and another with body and pedicle destruction was found to have metastatic spinal disease. 22 completed ATT, while 9 are still on treatment, completing minimum of six months. All 31 patients followed up, including 4 with atypical imaging features, had symptomatic improvement with ESR normalizing in 90% and weight gain in 77%. Serial spinal X-rays did not show worsening in any. None had ATT related major adverse effects. Six with neurological deficits had completed 12 months ATT, where the recovery was full in 4 and partial in 2.

Conclusion: Imaging based diagnosis of STB and empirical ATT with close supervision appears to be safe and effective, in a setting with high degree of clinical suspicion, low drug resistance and limited resources.

P2680
Tuberculous spondylitis as a mirror of a severe epidemic situation

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Introduction: Tuberculosis of bone and joints (BJTB) is one of the leading forms among extrapulmonary TB. The aim was to estimate a spectrum of extrapulmonary TB in Novosibirsk - the capital of Siberia, and reveal a tendency in BTB.

Material and methods: Statistical reports were estimated, also 177 patients with BTB were enrolled in study.

Results: Among all cohort of extrapulmonary TB female patients was 50.9% and male patients - 49.1%, but in BJTB ration female:male was 1:2.

The share of BTB in extrapulmonary TB increased from 3.3% in 1992 up to 28.0% in 2006, and reached 48.6% in 2008. Among BTB tuberculosis spondylitis prevails (72.2%), mostly complicated by neurological disorders and paravertebral abscesses and combined with TB of other organs. Nevertheless in 65.5% only 2 vertebrae were involve in TB process. In 17.2 debut of disease was acute or sub-acute, but diagnostic took 14.1 months on average. One of the main reason is poor alertness physician for tuberculosis and late X-ray examination. Typical X-ray picture of TB spondylitis is shown on figure 1. Poverty, unemployment and alcoholism resulted in poor efficiency of the therapy in 45.7% patients. Patients endomorphic body type in 8.5 times more likely to have delayed consolidation.

Conclusion: In regions with severe epidemic situation it is necessary always to keep in the mind TB in patients with back pain and make X-ray examination as soon as possible.

P2681
Dysfunction of external respiration in patients with spinal tuberculosis

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Aim of the study was to determine the peculiarities of respiratory system dysfunctions and their effect on spinal tuberculosis clinical course.

We studied FER in 95 patients with spinal tuberculosis aged from 20 to 60 yr old to determine the peculiarities of dysfunctions.

Gravity of pulmonary breathing capacity dysfunctions was identified by abatement degree of VCL and MPBC: I degree – decrease in 16-35%; II degree - decrease in 36-55%; III degree – decrease more than 55%.

In 72 patients were revealed disturbances of FER indices. Of them, 19.5% patients had moderate embarrassment of ventilation, 45.8% considerable, and 34.7% - full-blown. Thus, in 58 patients LVC was decreased in considerable and strong embarrassment of ventilation in 1.5-2 times as compared with normal one and only in 14 patients was followed moderate decline.

Study results established direct relation of LVC index decline from the size of spinal deformation. Therefore, LVC sharp decline was followed in patients with the maximum size of kyphosis (102,0±4,0), considerable - in moderate size of kyphosis (118,0±3,0). Normal indices and LVC moderate decline were noted in patients with minimum size of kyphosis (154,0±5,0). In 47 patients restrictive type of embarrassment of ventilation was observed. Combined type occurred in 14 patients, obstructive - in 11. Should be noted that despite LVC considerable and sharp decrease in most of examined patients, MPBC was rather in a lesser degree: in 17 patients outsized MPBC indices were determined, in 32 their moderate decline was noted.

Consequently, the presence of cerebrospinal dysfunctions depending on their depth and localization embarrass significantly the ventilation indices in patients with tuberculosis spondylitis.

P2682
Tuberculous myotic aneurysm of aorta: A rare complication

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39 year old male was started on antituberculous treatment based on symptoms and miliary shadows on chest x-ray. 2 months later he had persistent abdominal pain. Abdominal examination revealed a pulsatile palpable mass with bruit. Ultrasound &CT abdomen confirmed aneurysmal dilatation of aorta from hiatus to bifurcation with infra renal involvement. No leak or dissection.
P2683
Tuberculosis in residual pleural cavity after segmental pulmonary resections and its surgical treatment
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Repeated operations on account of development of tuberculosis in the residual pleural cavity after segmental resections were performed in 54 patients (males – 35, females - 19) in ages between 17 and 46. Residual cavity due to incomplete lung spread developed on the left in upper segments of thoracic cage in 30 patients, on the right – in 24 patients after segmental (9), combined resections (16), lobectomy (26) and bilobectomy (3) on account of fibrous-cavernous tuberculosis. Tuberculosis in residual cavity was diagnosed in 6 months - 1 year after the operations in 28 patients, in 3 years – in 19, in 4-5 years – in 7. Bacteria excretion in sputum was detected in 41 patients (75.9%).

After pre-operative chemotherapy and general treatment, lobectomy was performed in 1 patient, pulmonectomy – in 15, thoracoplasty with myoplasty of residual cavity – in 38. Good effectiveness of repeated operations stated in 43 patients (79.6%), unsatisfactory results due to the exacerbation of bronchovascular fistula and pleural empyema – in 7 (12.9%). Lethality in 4 patients (7.5%) occurred from the progress of bronchial fistula, plural empyema. In 3-10 years after operations clinical healing was established in 82.1% of patients. Lethality in 17.9% occurred because of the progress of bronchial fistula, plural empyema and pulmonary tuberculosis.

Conclusion: Tuberculosis in residual pleural cavity after segmental pulmonary resections is a heavy pulmonary and pleural pathology characterized by chronic course. Repeated operations – pulmonectomy and thoracoplasty with myoplasty of the residual cavity – are highly effective and allow healing 82.1% of patients.

P2684
Asymptomatic oesophageal and bony involvement in an HIV-negative female with pulmonary TB
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A 44 year-old lady of Afro-Caribbean origin presented with a 4-months history of productive cough, night sweats and weight loss. There were no other symptoms or significant medical history. Chest auscultation revealed right-sided apical bronchial destruction in the other, with a constant allocation of extensively drug resistant mycobacteria tuberculosis (TB).

Thoracic computed tomography revealed a pneumomediastinum, oesophageal perforation and gaseous permeative infiltration of T1-T3 vertebrae.

A human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screen was negative. Oesophagogastrroduodenoscopy was normal apart from a 2cm punched out lesion at 23cm of the oesophagus. Quadruple anti-TB therapy and enteral feeding were established via a percutaneous gastrostomy tube to avoid mediastinitis and allow healing. Clinically occult oesophageal perforation and bony involvement in the absence of HIV infection or miliary TB has not been previously described. The mechanism of this is unclear, but may have involved a caseating mediastinal lymph node.

P2685
Surgical treatment of first found pulmonary tuberculosis at ineffectiveness of DOTS therapy
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Surgeries were performed in 43 patients (males-27, females-22) in ages between 18-53 years old. All the patients had first found destructive tuberculosis of lungs, and ineffectiveness of DOTS therapy was stated in them. During 2-3 months, 23 patients received chemotherapy in hospital (isoniazid, rifampycin, pyrazinamide, ethambutol or streptomycin) and ambulant therapy (isoniazid and rifampycin) under the 1st category of DOTS during 4-6 months.

After diagnosing pulmonary tuberculosis, the treatment according to the 1st DOTS category (intensive phase-2-3 months, supporting phase 4-6 months) was received by 20 patients in the first phase. Because of ineffectiveness of chemotherapy, the treatment was continued under the 2nd DOTS category intensive phase chemotherapy with 5 preparations (H, R, Z, E and S) during 3-4 months and ambulant phase (isoniazid, rifampycin, ethambutol) during 6-8 months. Ineffectiveness of DOTS based chemotherapy continuing bacteria excretion, presence of pulmonary destructed served as indication to surgical treatment. Segmental pulmonary resection was carried out in 7 patients, lobectomy in 12, pulmonectomy in 24. Clinical healing was established in 43 patients (95.5%). Unsatisfactory results (bronchial fistula and plural empyema) were stated in 2 patients (4.7%). Lethality in 1 patient (2.3%) was caused by the progress of pulmonary tuberculosis and plural empyema.

Conclusion: When DOTS chemotherapy is ineffective, surgical treatment of first found destructive pulmonary tuberculosis is an important and effective final stage of complex therapy that prevents transition of patients into the group og chronic patients.

P2686
Method of treatment of destructive tuberculosis of single lung with extremely drug resistant mycobacteria tuberculosis
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Treatment of patients with TB with total defeat of one lung and presence of destruction in the other, with a constant allocation of extensively drug resistant Myc. tuberculosis (XDR MBT), remains extremely weak. Under these conditions, the role of surgical and endoscopic therapies is rising.

Objective: To improve treatment of patients with fibrous-cavernous tuberculosis of a single lung with XDR MBT due to valvular lung volume reduction (VLVR) and local extrapleural thoracoplasty.

Material and methods: The treatment was performed in 13 patients (10 men, 3 women) of fibrous-cavernous tuberculosis of a single lung with XDR MBT. The patients’ age ranged from 30 to 54 years. Disease duration ranged from a half to 8 years, all patients were smear.

The essence of the proposed method is to use endobronchial non-return valve. Valve ensures the smooth discharge of air, sputum, bronchial content in the exhalation, and cough. Inverse of air in the lung lesions did not occur. Thus, gradually hyperventilation was being reached, until atelectasis of lung tissue. VLVR performed during treatment with reserve anti-TB drugs. In 6 patients with VLVR was supplemented extrapleural thoracoplasty.

Results: Time that valve spent in the bronchus depended on the rate of cavity closure and cessation of bacteria and ranged from 7 to 274 days. Abac illation was achieved in 100% of patients, the cavity was closed in 76.9% of patients.

Conclusions: The proposed method of treatment of patients with tuberculosis enables us to reduce lung cavity and reach abacillation patients with XDR MBT in the absence of the effect of chemotherapy with reserve anti-TB drugs and a high risk of single lung resection.

P2687
Artificial therapeutic pneumothorax induced by video assisted thoracoscopic surgery – Surgical treatment option in the modern management of pulmonary tuberculosis – Case presentation
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Introduction: Pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) multidrug resistant (MDR) is still a major global health problem. After the discovery of antimycobacterial therapy the use of therapeutic pneumothorax (TP) decreased. Increased prevalence of PTB...
MDR, multiple adverse effects and high cost of TB drugs have returned the attention to this old method of treatment.

**Objective:** The aim of this paper is to highlight the usefulness of TP induced by video assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) as adjuvant therapy in cavitary PTB MDR.

**Method:** A 27-year-old, male patient was diagnosed with cavitary MDR PTB. Because the individualized treatment has proved ineffective and the patient declined resection surgery, we performed repeated intrapleural air insufflations. In the absence of satisfactory lung collapse due to pleural adhesions, it was decided to associate a minimally invasive surgical procedures – VATS. Multiple adhesions localized to the right upper lobe and 6 right segment were destroyed (monopolar cautery, LigaSure) with full release of the lung. Pleural cavity was controlled with a single tube which was maintained clamped until his removal in the first postoperative day.

**Results:** The surgical procedure was well tolerated without major complications and with sufficient parenchymal collapse, subsequently maintained by periodic air insufflations. After 4 months the patient was smear and culture negative and the cavity was reduced in size.

**Conclusions:** In carefully selected cases, TP is an effective adjuvant procedure in the treatment of MDR PTB. VATS is useful for lysis of adhesions when lung collapse is insufficient.

**P2688**

A case of breast tuberculosis in developed country with low incidence of tuberculosis

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The Czech Republic belongs to the countries with low incidence of tuberculosis. We present a very rare case of breast tuberculosis (TB) resembling a breast malignancy or non-specific abscess to document the possibility of misdiagnosis and diagnostic challenge.

**Objectives:** Differential diagnosis of a painful, firm lump in a breast of 81 years old female. Review of important issues relating to the diagnosis, clinical features, and management of breast tuberculosis.

**Case presentation:** A 81 year-old female without medical history of TB was hospitalised for a painful, firm lump in her right breast. Neither the mammography nor histology confirmed the diagnosis of breast carcinoma. Chest radiograph, chest CT scans and sputum smear or cultivation did not prove lung TB. Bronchoscopical examination showed anthracotic pigmentionts without endobronchial granulations or fistulas. Both bronchial biopsy and bronchial aspirate were negative for Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The pathologists in the biopsy of the breast lesion described a combination of epitheloid cell granulomas and caseous necrosis. Microscopic analysis of the lump pus confirmed the presence of acid-fast bacilli. Lump pus cultivations were positive for Mycobacterium tuberculosis. A four-drug regimen (isoniazid, rifampicin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide) and local lavage with AT drugs led after two months to the remission of the lump and healing of the fistula.

**Conclusion:** In breast TB the clinical and radiological features are not specific. The misdiagnosis with the carcinoma of the breast or non-specific abscess is possible. Even in countries with the low incidence of tuberculosis the TB of the breast can be observed.