

# Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis

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DENVER TB COURSE

APRIL 2025

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# Disclosures

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- No relevant disclosures for this talk

# Objectives

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- Review the epidemiology of extrapulmonary disease
- Describe host risk factors for extrapulmonary disease
- Review the presentation, diagnostic strategy and treatment of the different forms of extrapulmonary disease
- Explore the contribution of molecular techniques
- Summarize the guidelines for management

# Extrapulmonary tuberculosis (EPTB)

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-bacteriologically confirmed or clinically diagnosed case of TB involving organs other than the lungs

(i.e. pleura, lymph nodes, abdomen, genitourinary tract, skin, joints and bones, meninges).



# Burden of tuberculosis at post mortem in inpatients at a tertiary referral centre in sub-Saharan Africa: a prospective descriptive autopsy study

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Autopsy on adult inpatients: 4/12-5/13

N: 125

64% male, 81% HIV +

78 (62%) had TB

20/78 (26%) undiagnosed TB

13/78 (13%) undiagnosed MDR TB

35/78 (45%) EPTB

EPTB higher in HIV patients (OR 5.14)

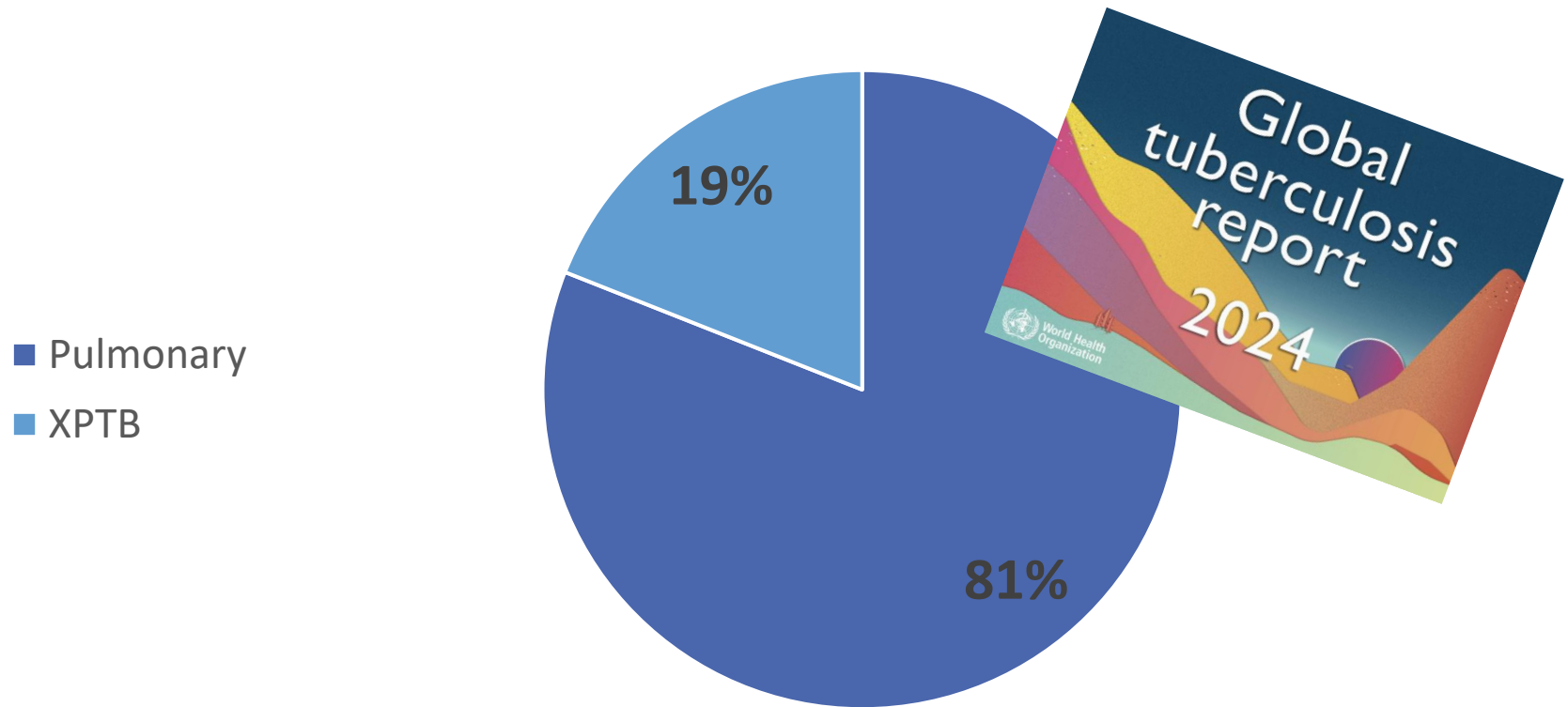
## KEY POINT:

**In endemic regions there is a substantial burden of undiagnosed TB and MDR TB**



# Extrapulmonary TB in 2023

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# WHO Global TB Report

**TABLE 5.1**

**Notifications of TB, HIV-positive TB, MDR/RR-TB and XDR-TB cases, globally and for WHO regions, 2019**

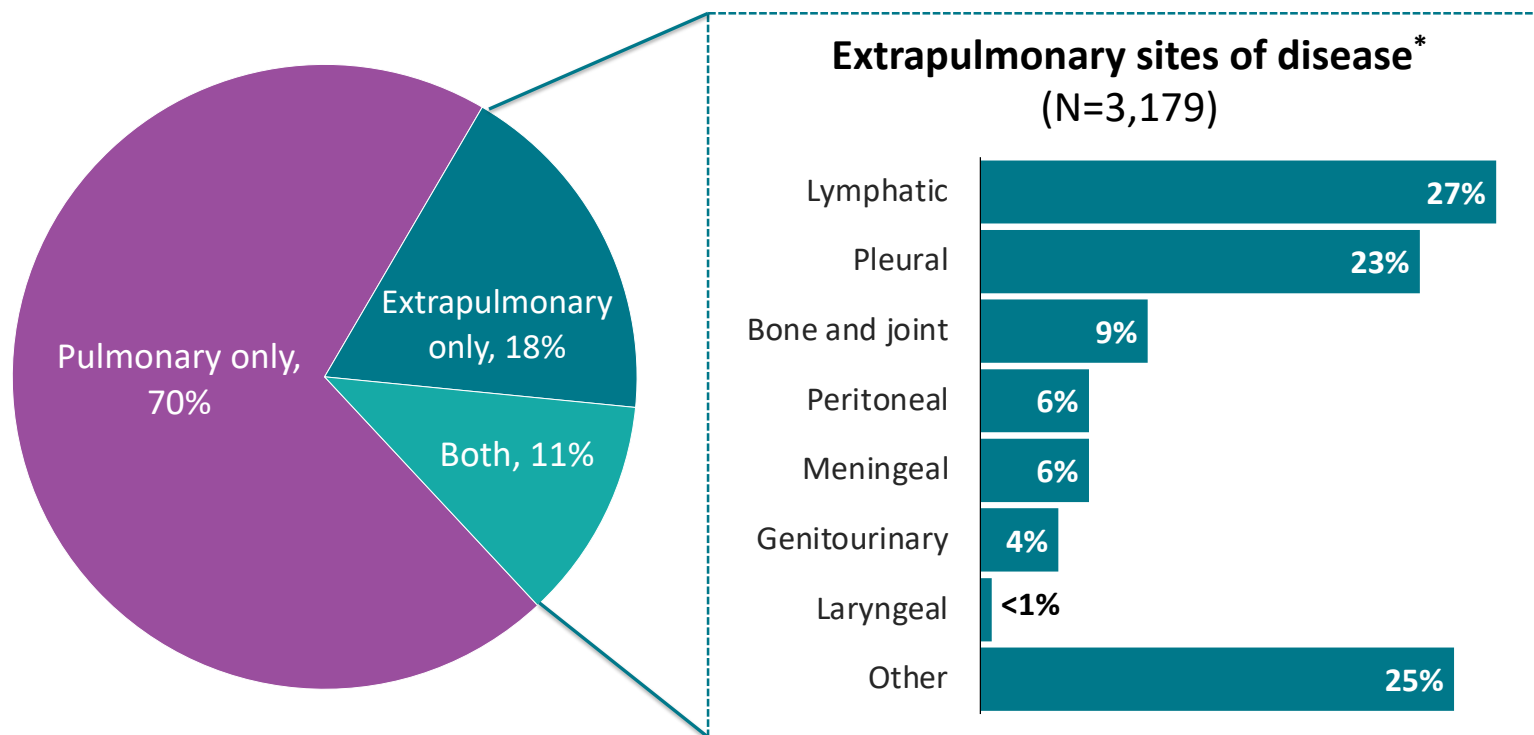
WHO REGION	TOTAL NOTIFIED	NEW AND RELAPSE <sup>a</sup>	PULMONARY NEW AND RELAPSE		EXTRA-PULMONARY NEW AND RELAPSE (%)	HIV-POSITIVE NEW AND RELAPSE	MDR/RR-TB	XDR-TB <sup>b</sup>
			NUMBER	OF WHICH BACTERIOLOGICALLY CONFIRMED (%)				
<b>Africa</b>	1 436 330	1 400 293	1 191 433	66%	15%	318 238	29 155	618
<b>The Americas</b>	250 341	235 600	199 417	78%	15%	20 122	4 979	138
<b>Eastern Mediterranean</b>	506 641	497 998	377 324	55%	24%	1 705	6 328	73
<b>Europe</b>	243 789	200 322	168 574	66%	16%	25 100	47 936	8 560
<b>South-East Asia</b>	3 641 245	3 378 887	2 728 541	57%	19%	75 366	86 623	2 444
<b>Western Pacific</b>	1 416 592	1 389 744	1 281 527	46%	8%	15 895	31 009	517
<b>Global</b>	<b>7 494 938</b>	<b>7 102 844</b>	<b>5 946 816</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>456 426</b>	<b>206 030</b>	<b>12 350</b>

<sup>a</sup> *New and relapse* includes cases for which the treatment history is unknown. It excludes cases that have been re-registered as *treatment after failure*, as *treatment after loss to follow-up* or as *other previously treated* (whose outcome after the most recent course of treatment is unknown or undocumented).

<sup>b</sup> XDR-TB is MDR-TB plus resistance to a fluoroquinolone and an injectable agent.

# CDC Data 2023

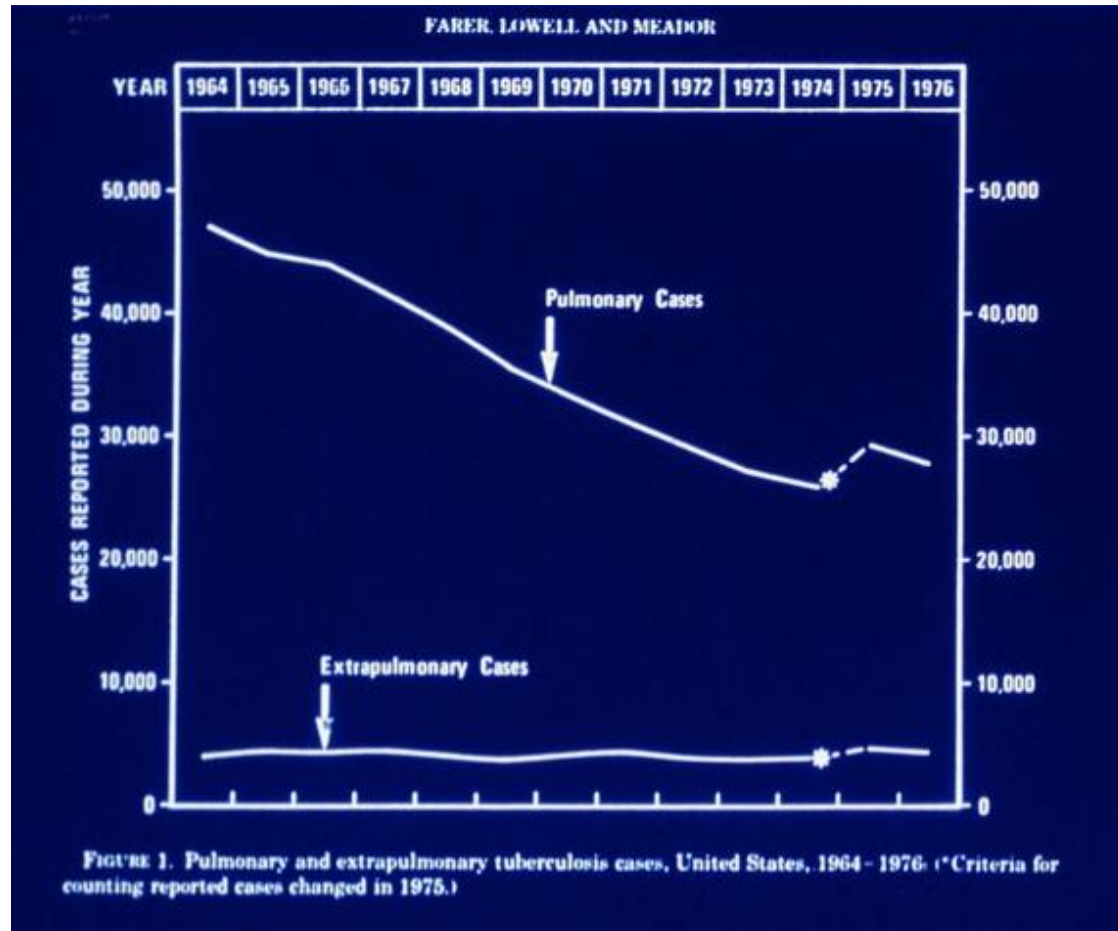
## Percentage of TB Cases by Site of Disease, United States, 2023



\* Persons might have more than one extrapulmonary site of disease.



# Incidence of EPTB 1964-1976



Courtesy of the CDC, provided by Dr. M. Iseman

# Risk factors for EPTB

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- **Untreated Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection**
- **Infancy**
- **Corticosteroids or other iatrogenic immunosuppression**
- **Female sex (OR 1.7)**
- Alcohol abuse
- Malignancy
- Connective tissue disease (with or without iatrogenic immunosuppression)
- Renal failure
- Diabetes
- Pregnancy
- Vitamin D deficiency

# Diagnostic challenges

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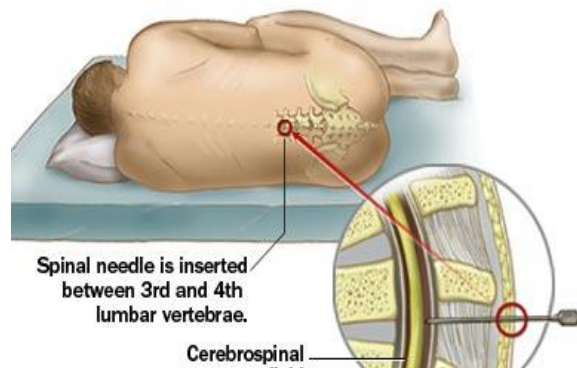
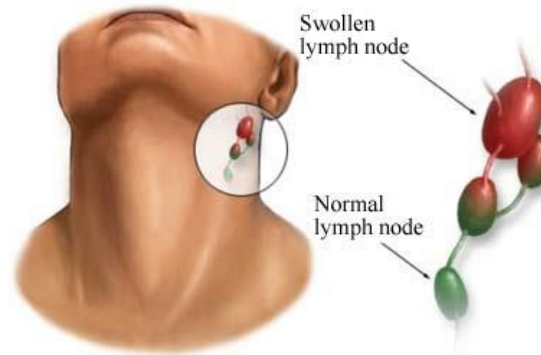
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS  
ARE NONSPECIFIC

DIAGNOSTIC SAMPLING  
MAY BE DIFFICULT

SERIAL SAMPLING ON  
TREATMENT MAY NOT BE  
FEASIBLE

# Diagnosis requires tissue/fluid sampling

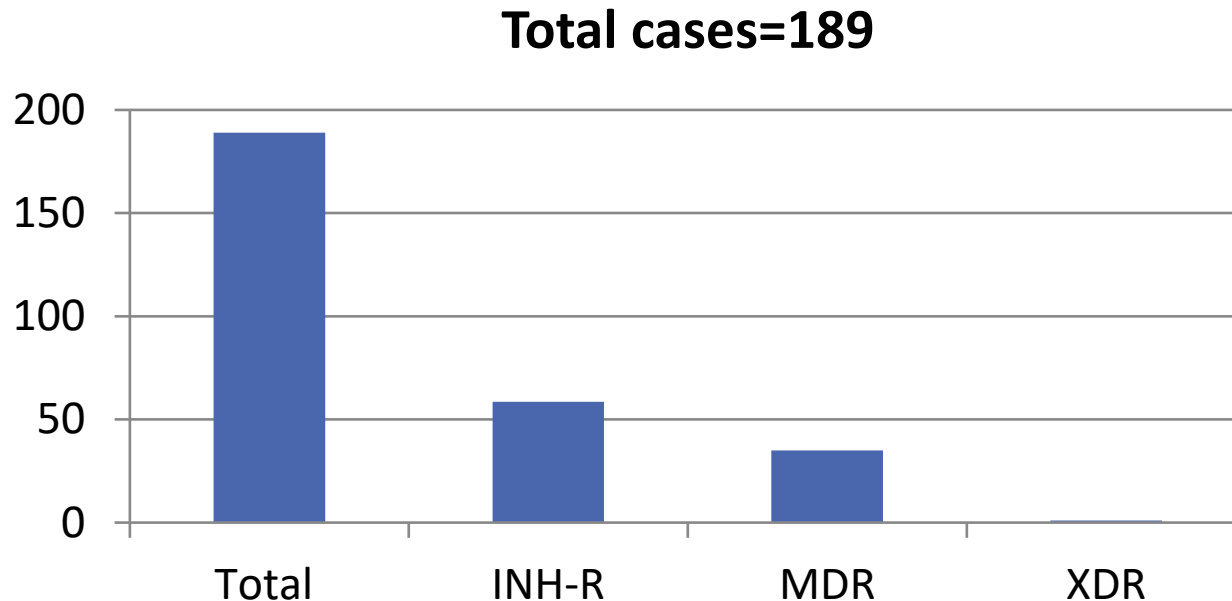
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# EPTB in New Delhi

## High rates of drug resistance

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### KEY POINT

- In some areas of the world, resistance is seen in over 30% of cases, therefore CULTURE AND DRUG SUSCEPTIBILITY are of critical importance

# EPTB + HIV

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EPTB MORE  
COMMON IN AIDS

INCREASING RATE  
WITH DECREASING  
CD4

#1 LYMPHADENITIS  
#2 DISSEMINATED



OBTAIN AS MANY CULTURES FROM  
AS MANY SITES AS POSSIBLE  
USE MOLECULAR TOOLS  
URINE LAM

# Lymphatic Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Painless, unilateral,  
cervical chain most  
common

## DIAGNOSIS

Biopsy

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy (6 mo)  
Be prepared for paradoxical  
reactions (up to 25%)



# Pleural Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Fever, cough, pleurisy  
Unilateral sm-mod effusion  
Parenchymal disease 50%

## DIAGNOSIS

Thoracentesis  
Pleural Biopsy

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy  
6 months





# Diagnostic Thorn=Pleural TB

	AFB smear (%)	AFB culture (%)	Histology (%)
Pleural fluid	0-10	23-58	
Pleural tissue	14-39	40-85	69-97

Lewinsohn CID 2017

Sensitivity	Xpert MTB/RIF (%)	Xpert Ultra (%)	Culture (%)
Pleural fluid	49	75	26

Kohli Cochrane Review 2021

Meta-analysis in pleural TB (n= 1626)		
	Sensitivity	Specificity
ADA	92	90
INF- $\gamma$	89	97

Zhou Scientific reports 2015

# Genitourinary Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Pain, altered urination  
Sterile pyuria, hematuria, proteinuria  
Hydronephrosis, distortion of collecting system

## DIAGNOSIS

Urine smear is not performed  
Urine AFB culture, early collection

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy  
6 months

# Audience Response Question

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What is this woman doing?

- A. Brushing her teeth
- B. Shining light into her throat
- C. Performing a self exam

# What is this woman doing?

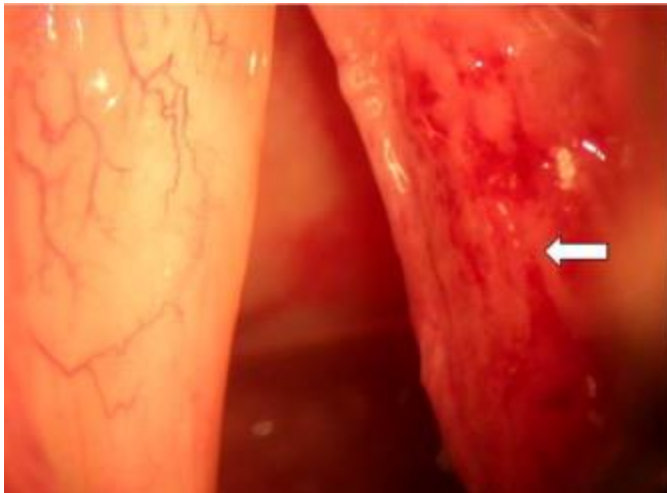
Brushing  
her teeth **A**

Shining  
light into  
her throat **B**

Performing  
a self exam **C**

# Laryngeal Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Hoarseness, odynophagia  
Unilateral, true vocal cords

## DIAGNOSIS

Laryngeal biopsy

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy 6 months  
Surgery reserved for airway compromise  
Prognosis usually good, immobility can be reversible

# Gastrointestinal Tuberculosis



## PRESENTATION

Hepatitis, enteritis, peritonitis  
Abdominal pain, fever, ascites  
70% symptoms > 4 months

## DIAGNOSIS

Ascites: lymphocytic exudate  
beware of dilution in cirrhosis  
Ascites: Smear usually negative.  
Culture + 45-69%  
Peritoneal biopsy

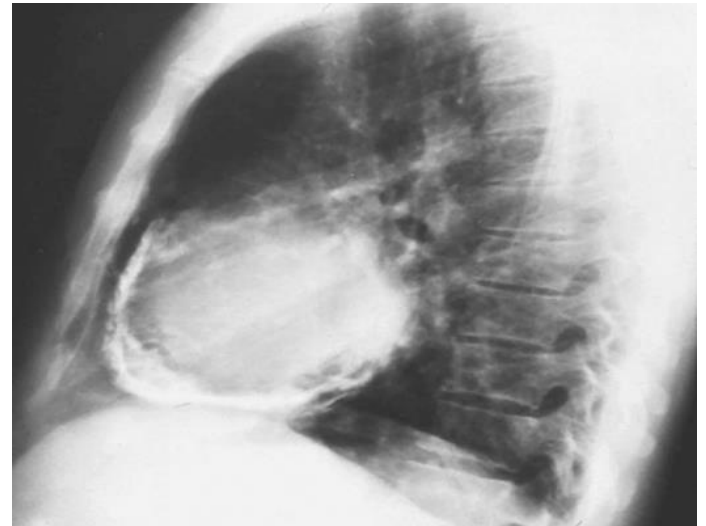
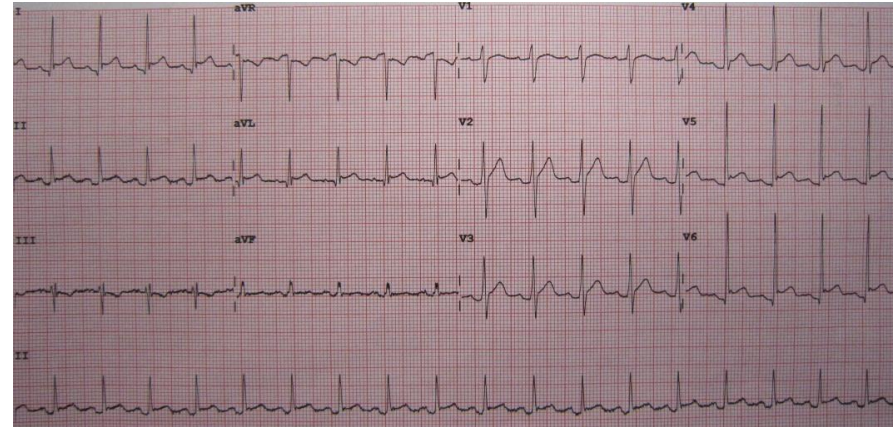
## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy  
6 months

# Audience Response Question

A 48-year-old male from South Africa complains of chest pain that worsens with leaning forward. ECG notes PR depression and diffuse ST elevation.

- A. Begin Rifampin/INH/PZA/EMB
- B. Begin Rifampin/NH/PZA/EMB and steroids after a pericardial biopsy for afb smear/culture and TB PCR.
- C. Obtain a pericardiocentesis for afb smear and culture. A negative result excludes the diagnosis.



**A 48-year-old male from South Africa complains of chest pain that worsens with leaning forward. ECG notes PR depression and diffuse ST elevation.**

Begin Rifampin/INH/PZA/EMB **A**

Begin Rifampin/NH/PZA/EMB and steroids after a pericardial biopsy for afb smear/culture and TB PCR **B**

Obtain a pericardiocentesis for afb smear and culture. A negative result excludes the diagnosis. **C**



# Pericardial Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Cough, wt loss, orthopnea, chest pain, edema, fever  
Tachycardia, cardiomegaly, JVD, muffled sounds  
1/2 with friction rub  
ECG: ST/TW depression, CXR: enlarged heart  
echo: effusion, constrictive pericarditis

## DIAGNOSIS

Pericardial biopsy: Smear, culture, PCR  
Negative biopsy does not exclude the diagnosis

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy (6 mo) +/- steroids

# Diagnosis of Pericardial TB

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Sensitivity	AFB smear (%)	AFB culture (%)	Histology (%)
Pericardial Fluid	0-42	50-65	73-100

Lewinsohn CID 2017

Suspected Pericardial TB (151 suspect/74 definite/50 probable)		
	Sensitivity	Specificity
ADA (>35 IU/L)	95.7	84
IFN- $\gamma$ (>44 $\mu$ g/ml)	95.7	96.3
XPRT MTB/RIF	63.8	100

Pandie BMC Med 2014

# Guidelines support selective use of steroids in pericarditis

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Recent RCT (n=1400) NO difference in the combined primary endpoint of mortality, cardiac tamponade, or constrictive pericarditis

Subgroup analysis: Suggested a benefit in preventing constrictive pericarditis

- large pericardial effusions, those with high levels of inflammatory cells or markers in pericardial fluid, or those with early signs of constriction

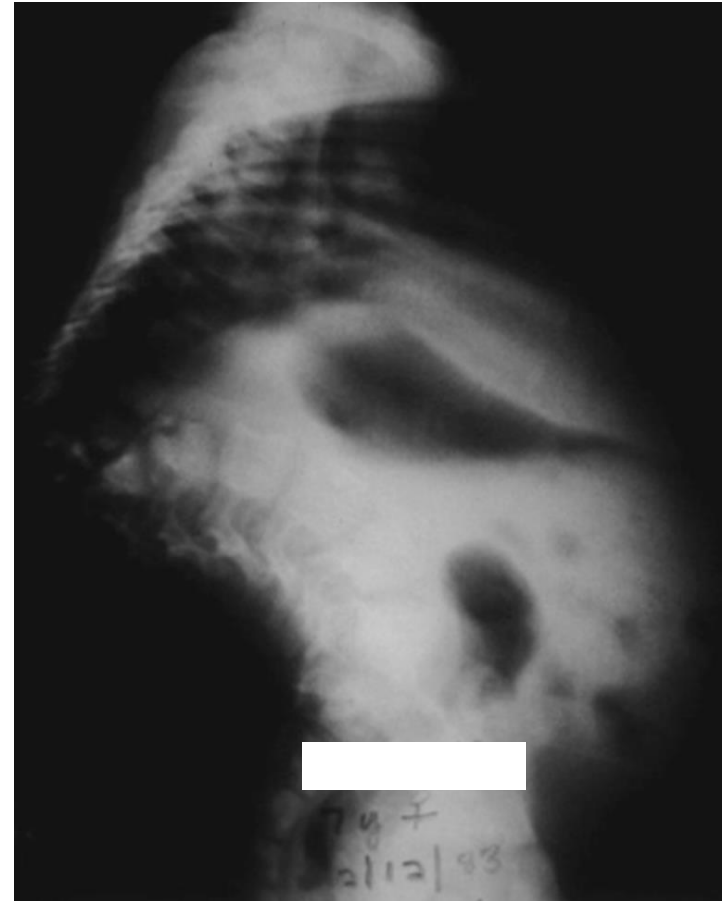
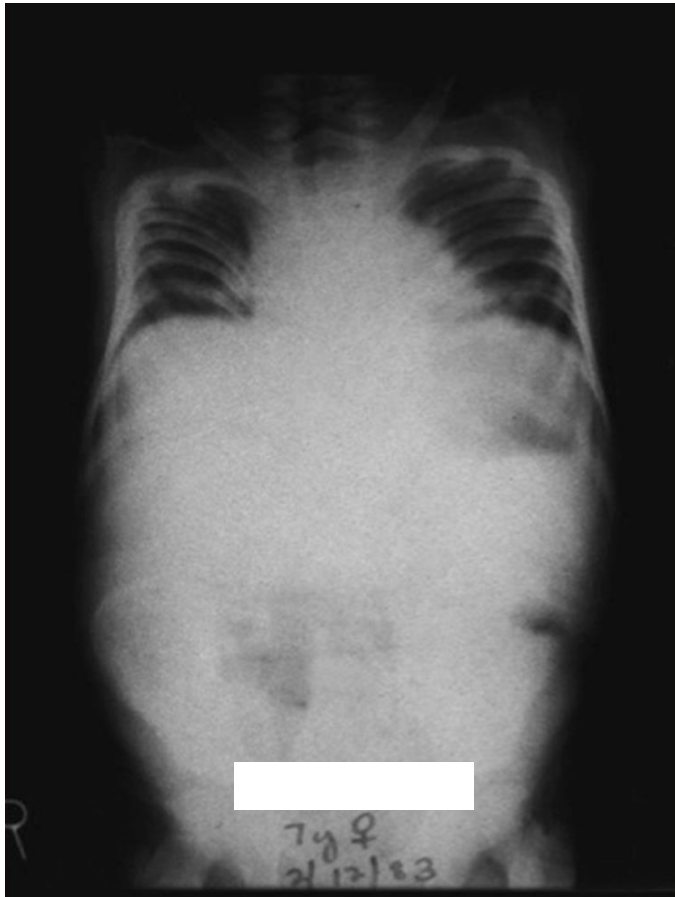
## 2016 Guidelines:

- Adjunctive corticosteroids should NOT be used routinely in the treatment of patients with pericardial tuberculosis
- However, selective use of corticosteroids in patients who are at the highest risk for inflammatory complications might be appropriate

Mayosi N Engl J Med 2014; 371:2534  
Nahid CID 2016;63(7):e147–95

# What is unusual about this CXR in a 7-year-old male?

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# Spinal Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Lower thoracic and lumbar vertebrae  
Back pain, cold abscess, nerve root  
compression \*scoliosis, limp  
Bone destruction, anterior wedging, para-  
spinous abscess

## DIAGNOSIS

Biopsy for smear and culture

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy 6 months +/- surgery  
Extend 9-12 months for advanced disease

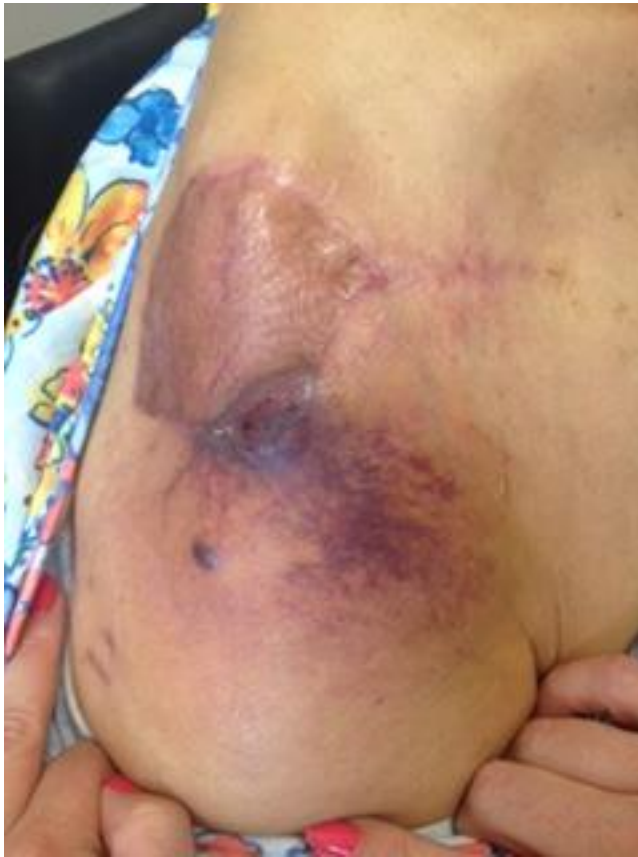
# Osteomyelitis of the wrist and forearm

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# Tuberculous septic arthritis with associated clavicular osteomyelitis

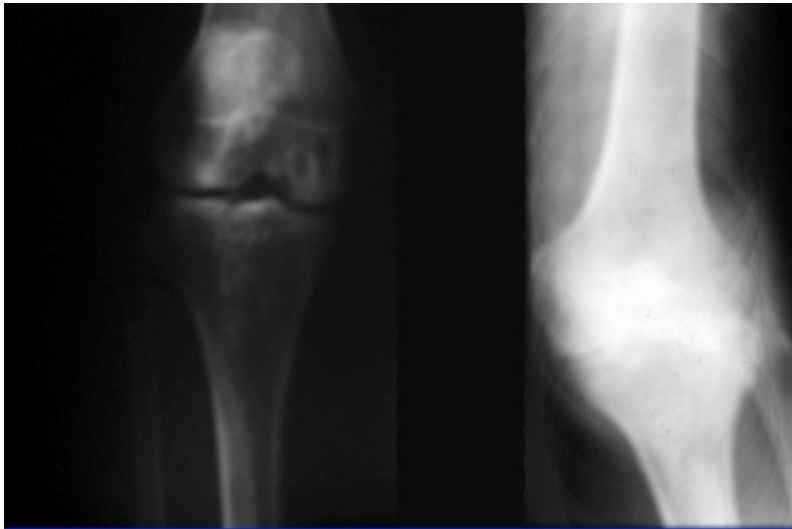
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# Extra-spinal bone/joint tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Osteomyelitis < arthritis :hip and knee  
Cold abscess, pain, swelling, loss of joint  
function  
Constitutional symptoms <30%

## DIAGNOSIS

X-ray findings may be nonspecific, destruction  
is a late finding  
Bone/synovial biopsy for smear and culture

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy for 6 months  
9-12 months for advanced disease

# Outbreak of EPTB associated with acupuncture, China

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33 EPTB cases

- all confirmed MTB, Beijing strain



# Audience Response Question

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9-month-old girl with subacute altered mental status, facial droop

Evidence of lymphocytic pleocytosis on CSF, low glucose and high protein



While waiting for the diagnostic studies:

1. Begin ceftriaxone and vancomycin
2. Begin dexamethasone, ceftriaxone and vancomycin
3. Begin dexamethasone, ceftriaxone, vancomycin, INH, RIF, AMK, PZA

**9 month old with subacute altered mental status, facial droop.  
Evidence of lymphocytic pleocytosis on CSF, low glucose and  
high protein. While waiting for the diagnostic studies:**

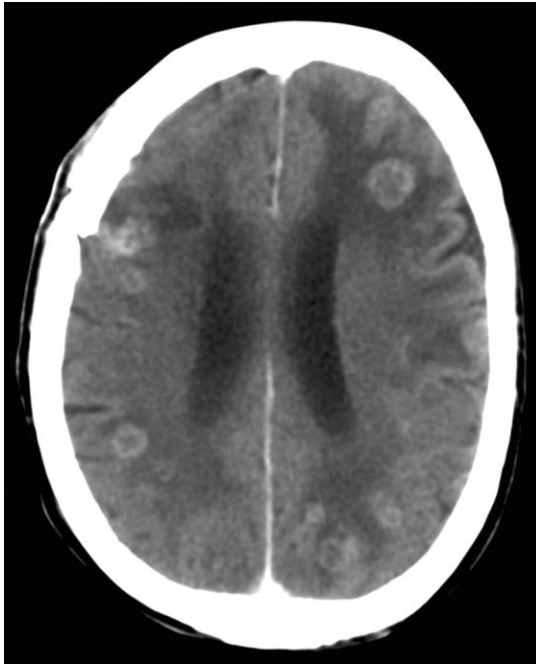
Begin ceftriaxone and  
vancomycin **A**

Begin dexamethasone,  
ceftriaxone and vancomycin **B**

Begin dexamethasone,  
ceftriaxone, vancomycin,  
INH, RIF, ETH, PZA **C**

# CNS Tuberculosis:

meningitis,  
tuberculoma, spinal  
arachnoiditis, and  
transverse myelitis



**DO NOT DELAY TREATMENT  
FOR + DIAGNOSTICS**

## PRESENTATION

Three stages of meningitis: Prodromal,  
Meningitic, Paralytic

## DIAGNOSIS

Lumbar puncture: OP normal or high  
CSF: Lymphocytic pleocytosis,  
elevated protein, low glucose  
Send off the 4<sup>th</sup> tube, 6ml+  
Smear, Culture (70%)  
NAAT\*

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy 9-12 months  
Steroids

Phase	Key identifier	BMRC	Signs and symptoms
Prodromal phase (2-3 weeks)	<b>ALERT</b>	<b>BRMC STAGE I GCS score &gt;15</b>	Malaise, headache, low grade fever, personality change
Meningitic phase	<b>LETHARGIC</b>	<b>BRMC STAGE II GCS score 11-14</b>	Neurologic features: meningismus, protracted headache, emesis, lethargy, confusion, CN signs
Paralytic phase	<b>COMA</b>	<b>BRMC STAGE III GCS score &lt;11</b>	Confusion, stupor, coma, seizures, hemiparesis and death

Overall mortality in TBM (meta-analysis) 42%.

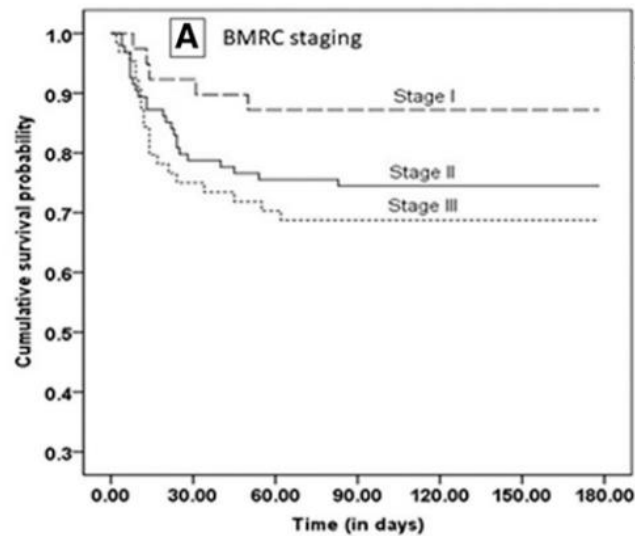
-J Neurol. 2022;269(7):3482. Epub 2022 Mar 15.

Paradoxical worsening can be seen on treatment in 1/3 of patients

-BMC Infect Dis. 2016;16:306. Epub 2016 Jun 21

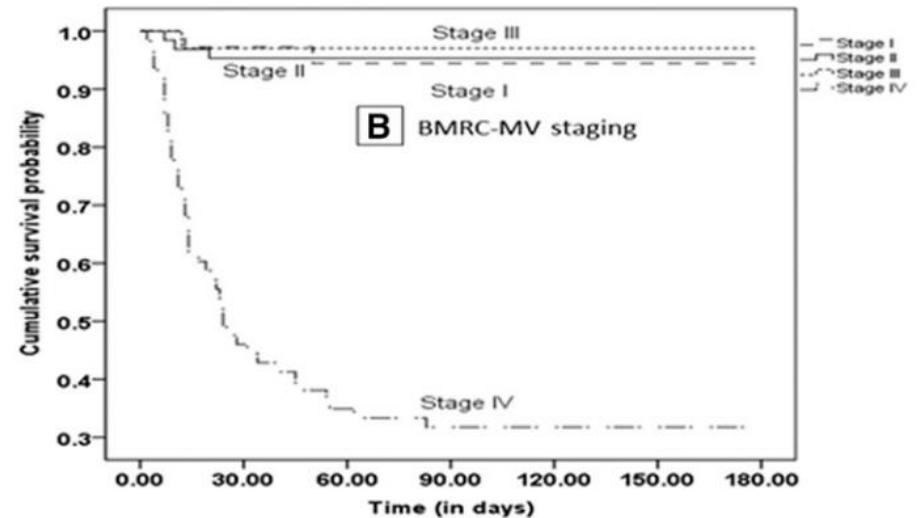
Over half of survivors have neurologic disability.

# Survival probability best predicted by need for mechanical ventilation



Number of individuals at risk

Stage I	39	36	34	34	34	34	34
Stage II	94	74	71	70	70	70	70
Stage III	64	48	45	44	44	44	44



No. of individual at risk

Stage I	36	35	34	34	34	34	34
Stage II	64	61	61	61	61	61	61
Stage III	34	33	33	33	33	33	33
Stage IV	63	29	22	20	20	20	20

# Diagnosis of TB in the CSF

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	AFB smear (%)	AFB culture (%)
CSF	10-30	45-70

Lewinsohn CID 2017

Sensitivity	Gene Xpert	Xpert Ultra
CSF	71	89

Cochrane Review 2021

Suspected TB Meningitis (1490 suspect/92 diagnosed)		
	Sensitivity	Specificity
ADA (>2U/L)	85.9	77

Ekermans BMC ID 2017



# Intensified regimen containing rifampicin and moxifloxacin for tuberculous meningitis: an open-label, randomised controlled phase 2 trial

Rovina Ruslami\*, A Rizal Ganiem\*, Sofiati Dian, Lika Apriani, Tri Hanggono Achmad, Andre J van der Ven, George Borm, Rob E Aarnoutse, Reinout van Crevel

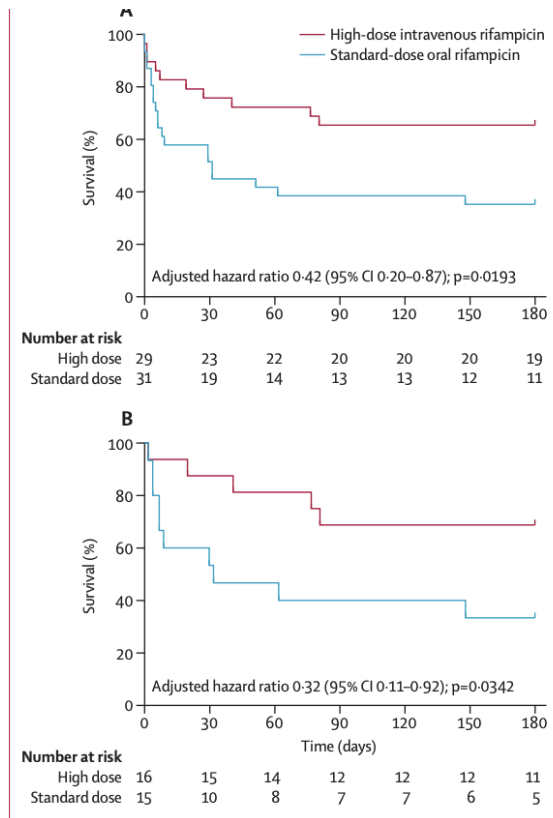


Figure 2: Survival according to rifampicin treatment in all 60 patients (A) and in 31 bacteriologically proven cases of tuberculous meningitis (B)

- Patients randomized to 450 mg oral rifampin daily vs. 600 mg IV rifampin daily for the first 2 weeks of treatment
- 50% reduction in mortality seen in the higher dose rifampin group

Lancet Infect Dis. 2013 Jan;13(1):27-35.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Intensified Antituberculosis Therapy in Adults with Tuberculous Meningitis

	Treatment 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 mo	Daily Dose (max dose)	Treatment Last 6 mo	
Standard Treatment Arm	INH RIF PZA EMB +/- SM	5mg/kg (300mg) 10mg/kg 25 mg/kg (2gm) 20mg/kg (1200mg) 20mg/kg (2gm)	INH RIF	5mg/kg (300mg) 10mg/kg
Intensified Treatment Arm	INH <b>RIF</b> PZA EMB <b>LEVO</b> +/- SM	<b>15mg/kg</b>    <b>20mg/kg</b>	INH <b>RIF</b>	5mg/kg (300mg) <b>15mg/kg</b>

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Intensified Antituberculosis Therapy in Adults with Tuberculous Meningitis

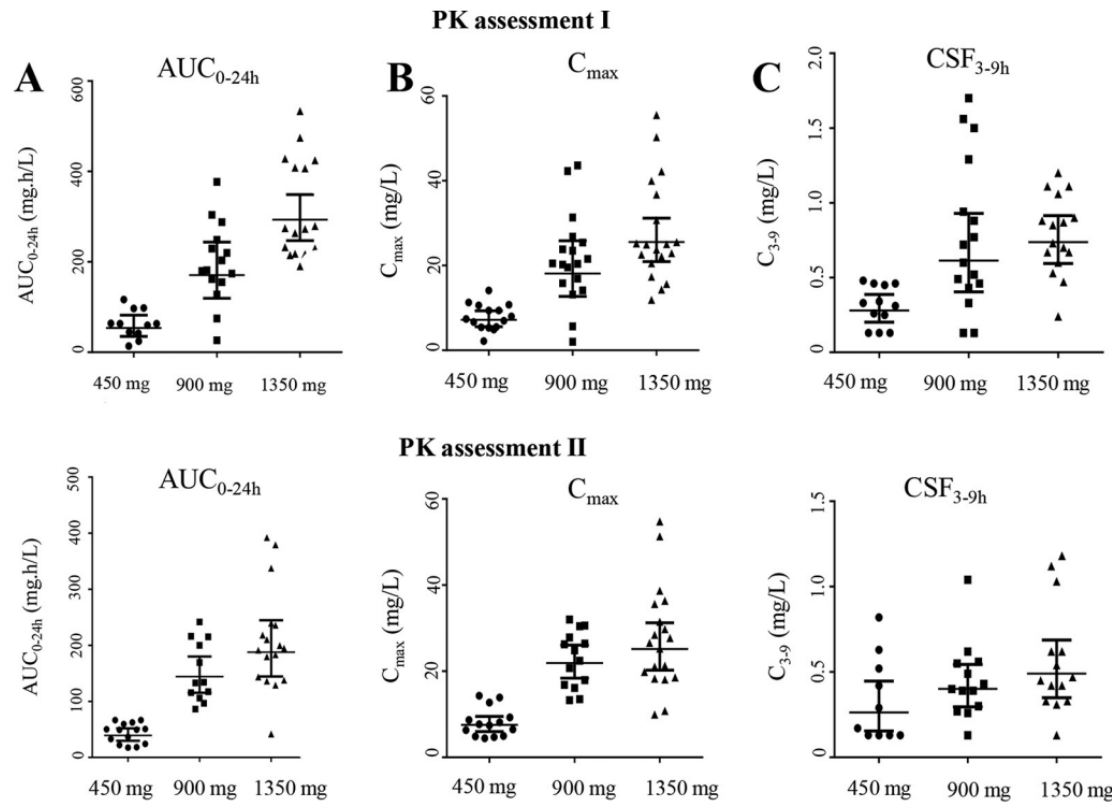
	Standard	Intensified	Hazard Ratio	P value
<b>Primary Outcome No. of death/N</b>	114/409	113/408	0.94 (0.73–1.22)	0.66
HIV infected	68/174	68/175	0.91 (0.65–1.27)	0.57
Isoniazid resistance	16/41	11/45	0.45 (0.20–1.02)	0.06

### Summary:

- Well designed RCT in Vietnamese Adults with TB meningitis
- No advantage associated with the use of this intensified treatment regimen regarding overall mortality (28%)

# Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Phase II Dose-Finding Study To Evaluate High-Dose Rifampin for Tuberculous Meningitis

[S. Dian](#),<sup>a,c,g</sup> [V. Yunivita](#),<sup>d,g</sup> [A. R. Ganiem](#),<sup>c,g</sup> [T. Pramaesya](#),<sup>g</sup> [L. Chaidir](#),<sup>e,g</sup> [K. Wahyudi](#),<sup>f</sup> [T. H. Achmad](#),<sup>e</sup>  
[A. Colbers](#),<sup>b</sup> [L. te Brake](#),<sup>b</sup> [R. van Crevel](#),<sup>a</sup> [R. Ruslami](#),<sup>d,g</sup> and [R. Aarnoutse](#)<sup>b</sup>



Rifampin 30mg/kg

Increased exposure in CSF

No association with an increase in grade 3-4 AE

# Additional trial in the pipeline

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## **Intensified tuberculosis treatment to reduce the mortality of HIV-infected and uninfected patients with tuberculosis meningitis (INTENSE-TBM): study protocol for a phase III randomized controlled trial**

Thomas Maitre<sup>1</sup>, Maryline Bonnet<sup>2</sup>, Alexandra Calmy<sup>3</sup>, Mihaja Raberahona<sup>4 5 6</sup>,  
Rivonirina Andry Rakotoarivelo<sup>4 7 8</sup>, Niaina Rakotosamimanana<sup>9</sup>, Juan Ambrosioni<sup>10 11</sup>,  
José M Miró<sup>10 11</sup>, Pierre Debeaudrap<sup>12</sup>, Conrad Muzooru<sup>13 14</sup>, Angharad Davis<sup>15 16 17</sup>,  
Graeme Meintjes<sup>17 18</sup>, Sean Wasserman<sup>17 19</sup>, Robert Wilkinson<sup>15 17 20</sup>, Serge Eholié<sup>21</sup>,  
Frédéric Ello Nogbou<sup>22</sup>, Maria-Camilla Calvo-Cortes<sup>23</sup>, Corine Chazallon<sup>24</sup>,  
Vanessa Machault<sup>24</sup>, Xavier Anglaret<sup>24</sup>, Fabrice Bonnet<sup>25 26</sup>

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT04145258>

# Dexamethasone in CNS TB

**Table 3.** Outcomes of 545 Patients Nine Months after Randomization.

Group	No. of Patients	Outcome			
		Good	Inter-mediate	Severe Disability	Death
		<i>number (percent)</i>			
Dexamethasone*	274	104 (38.0)	49 (17.9)	34 (12.4)	87 (31.8)
Placebo	271	95 (35.1)	42 (15.5)	22 (8.1)	112 (41.3)

Dexamethasone was associated with a reduced risk of death (relative risk, 0.69; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.52 to 0.92; P=0.01)

N Engl J Med. 2004;351(17):1741  
Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2008

# 2016 Guidelines

## Treatment of TB meningitis

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1. INH, RIF, PZA, and EMB in an initial 2-month phase.
2. After 2 months of 4-drug therapy, for meningitis known or presumed to be caused by susceptible strains, PZA and EMB may be discontinued, and INH and RIF continued for an additional 7–10 months.
3. Adjunctive corticosteroid therapy with dexamethasone or prednisolone tapered over 6–8 weeks
4. Repeated lumbar punctures early in the disease should be considered to document response to therapy.

# TB meningitis in Children

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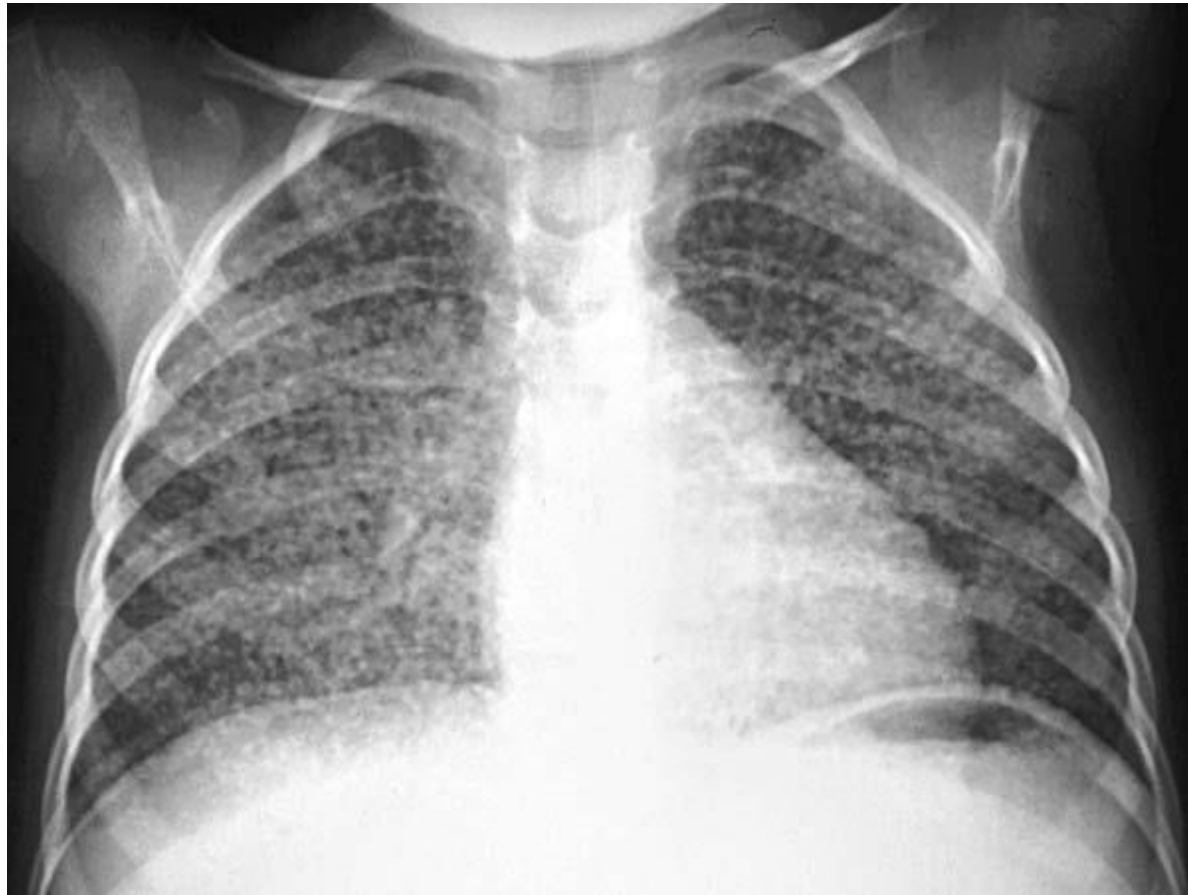
American Academy of Pediatrics:

1. An initial 4-drug regimen of INH, RIF (20-30 mg/kg/day), PZA, and an aminoglycoside or ethionamide for 2 months
2. If/when susceptibility to first-line drugs is established, the ethionamide or aminoglycoside may be discontinued
3. Followed by 7–10 months of INH and RIF



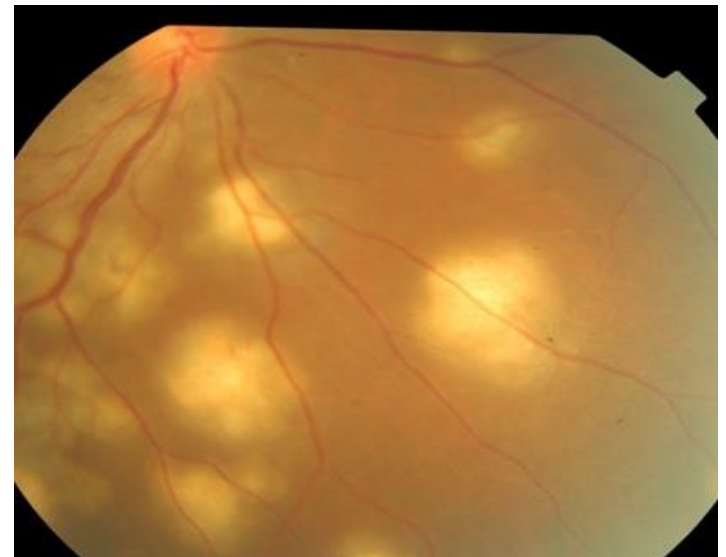
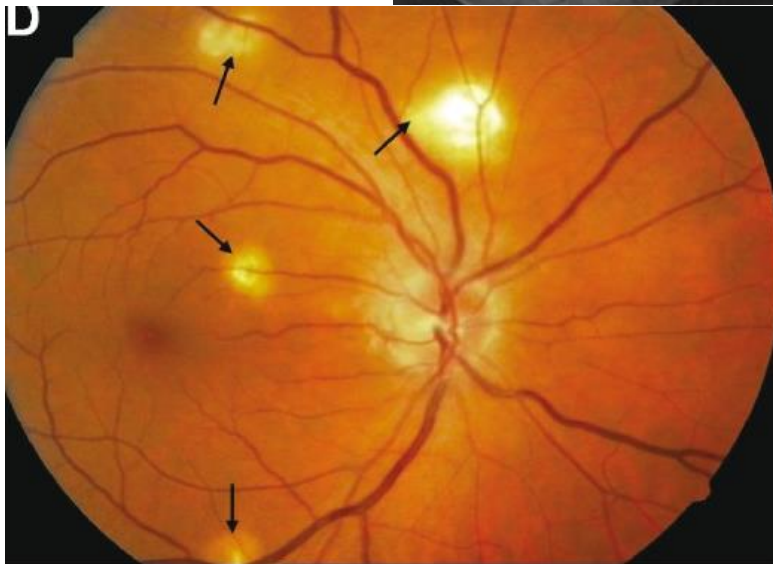
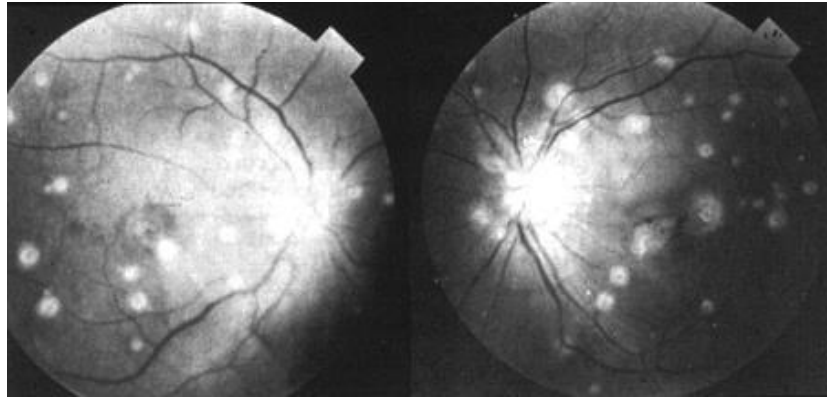
# Miliary TB in a newborn

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# Early Clues in disseminated TB

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# Disseminated Tuberculosis

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## PRESENTATION

Primary or secondary hematogenous infection  
Insidious, cryptic fever, weight loss  
Rare: ARDS, DIC, pancytopenia

## DIAGNOSIS

CXR often atypical or normal  
PPD and sputum negative in up to 50%  
PCR

## TREATMENT

Chemotherapy 6 months  
Extend therapy for CNS/bone joint disease

# XPERT MTB RIF & XPERT ULTRA in XPTB

Site	XPERT MTB/RIF Sensitivity (95% CrI)	XPERT MTB/RIF Specificity (95%CrI)	XPERT ULTRA Sensitivity (95% CrI)	XPERT ULTRA Specificity (95% CrI)
Pleural fluid	49.5% (39.8 to 59.9)	98.9% (97.6 to 99.7)	75.0% (58.0 to 86.4)	87.0% (63.1 to 97.9)
Bone/Joint aspirate	97.9%(93.1 to 99.6)	97.4% (80.2 to 100.0)		
Gastric aspirate	78% (0.68 – 0.85)	100% (0.99 – 1.00)		
CNS fluid	71.1% (62.8 to 79.1)	96.9% (95.4 to 98.0)	89.4% (79.1 to 95.6)	91.2% (83.2 to 95.7)
Lymphatic node aspirate	88.9% (82.7 to 93.6)	86.2% (78.0 to 92.3)		
Urine	85.9% (71.4 to 94.3)	98.1% (93.1 to 99.7)		
Pericardial fluid	61.4% (32.4 to 82.4)	89.7% (74.9 to 99.0)		

# What about 4-month rifapentine-moxifloxacin in EPTB?

- When the extrapulmonary TB is...
  - likely to be paucibacillary,
  - not pose a substantial risk of death or disability,
  - and not require prolonged treatment (i.e., pleural or lymph node TB)

Intensive Phase			Continuation Phase				
Drugs	Duration <sup>a</sup>	Frequency <sup>b</sup>	Drugs	Duration <sup>c</sup>	Frequency <sup>b</sup>	Total Doses	Comments <sup>d,e</sup>
RPT MOX INH PZA	8 weeks	7 days/week for 56 doses	RPT MOX INH	9 weeks	7 days/week for 63 doses	119	Recommended for people ages 12 and older with body weight at or above 40 kg, with pulmonary TB caused by organisms that are not known or suspected to be drug-resistant, and who have no contraindications to this regimen.

# Drug resistant XPTB

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	6 mo BPaLM/BPaL	9 Mo Oral regimen	18 mo regimen
XPTB	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exception:	TB involving CNS, miliary TB and osteoarticular TB	TB meningitis, miliary TB, pericardial TB and osteoarticular TB	

# Summary: Diagnosing EPTB

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Culture and drug susceptibility testing remain critical in the diagnosis and should be pursued in all suspects

WHO: recommends Xpert (Ultra\*) as the initial test for XPTB  
CDC/ATS/IDSA recommends NAAT testing on XPTB specimens

Guidelines recommend measuring ADA and INF- $\gamma$  levels in fluid when pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, or meningeal TB is suspected

# Summary: EPTB Treatment

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6 MONTHS OF  
STANDARD TB  
TREATMENT  
IN MOST  
CASES

Bone/Joint: consider extending treatment to 9 months  
CNS disease: 9-12 months

Dosing is once daily for both the intensive and  
continuation phases



# Summary: Adjunctive corticosteroids

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Steroids  
recommended  
with CNS disease  
(+/-pericardial  
disease)

Dexamethasone for CNS: 0.3 to 0.4 mg/kg/day for two weeks, then 0.2 mg/kg/day week three, then 0.1 mg/kg/day week four, then 4 mg per day and taper 1 mg off the daily dose each week; total duration approximately eight weeks.

prednisone or prednisolone for pericardial disease (60 mg/day and taper 10 mg per week; total duration of 6 weeks)