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Title: Analysis of 177 endobronchial tuberculosis cases in Serbia over 15-years period

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Body: Introduction: Tuberculosis still represents a significant health problem of population in Serbia, the incidence being for last few decades 32-36/100.000 inhabitants, up to last few years when it decreased to 24-26. Endobronchial tuberculosis (EBTB) is a chronic, progressive tuberculosis infection with often complicated clinical course and bronchostenosis formation. The aim of the study was to determine common clinical features and diagnostic aspects of bronchoscopic biopsy proven EBTB in population of Serbia over 15 years period and compare with published data. Method: Analysis and comparison of clinical features, radiologic, mycobacterial, bronchoscopic and histologic findings of 177 EBTB patients by SPSS ver. 15 for Windows, chi-square test, t-test and calculating Phi correlation coefficient. Results: Male to female ratio was 1.2:1. Five patients (2.8%) were asymptomatic. None had normal chest radiograph finding; the most frequent localization of concurrent pulmonary TB lesions was in the upper lobes. Two thirds of patients, 116 (65.5%) had cavernous lesions. Atypical TB was evident in 27pts (15.3%). The most common endoscopic forms of EBTB were edematous hyperemic (40,1%) and non-specific bronchitis (35,6%) unlike majority of published data. Bacteriologic confirmation of TB had 117 patients (66.1%). Sputum cultures for AFB were positive in only 27.7%, bronchial washing culture in 10.1%. Sputum and bronchial washing culture both were positive in 28.2% patients. Correlation between bronchoscopic categories of EBTB and bacteriologic confirmation of TB diagnosis was analysed and discussed. Conclusion: EBTB in Serbia has some distinctive and specific features in comparison with other published EBTB series.