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Title: Tuberculosis and tumor necrosis factor alpha antagonist: Our experience

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Body: Tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-alpha) antagonist are used for the treatment of chronic inflammatory disorders when they are refractory to standard therapy. Among its side effects are tuberculosis infection. **OBJETIVE:** To evaluate the tuberculosis in patients treated with TNF-alpha antagonist. **METHOD:** A retrospective review of patients treated with infliximab, etanercept and/or adalimumab in our hospital. We obtained 633 potential cases. We included patients with a positive cultivation or histologic findings suggestives of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection. **Data collected:** sex, age, underlying disease, prior immunosuppressive therapy, tuberculosis screening and prophylaxis, TNF-alpha antagonist used and location of the infection. **RESULTS:** Of the 633 patients, three developed active tuberculosis. Two men recived chemoprophylaxis with isoniacid and they were affected by psoriatic arthropathy treated with infliximab (previously with methotrexate). One of them, a 39 year old man, developed pulmonary tuberculosis and the another one, a 53 year old man, a genitourinary disease with a resistant germ to isoniacid. And a 58-year old woman with rheumatoid arthritis treated with infliximab (and previously with sulfasalazine, penicillamine, chloroquine and methotrexate), with unknown screening and prophylaxis, who developed pulmonary tuberculosis. **CONCLUSIONS:** Screening and prophylactic measures can not eliminate the risk totally. All the patient that developed tuberculosis disease were undergoing infliximab treatment and all of them suffered rheumatic disease. At least two of them developed tuberculosis disease despite chemoprophylaxis. Two developed pulmonary tuberculosis disease and another one genitourinary disease.