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Title: Extrapulmonary tuberculosis (TB): 40 years observations in Poland

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Body: Aim of the study: To describe changes in extrapulmonary TB epidemiology in Poland since 1970 (beginning of notification of different forms of extrapulmonary TB) Methods: Retrospective analysis of data from National TB Register. Data presented in ten years intervals. Results: Since 1970 the systematic decline of number of all TB cases (from 41536 to 7509 in 2010) with the shift to older age groups and decline of extrapulmonary TB cases (from 4848 to 716 in 2010) has been recorded in Poland without significant differences of fraction of extrapulmonary TB among all TB cases (11.6% in 1970; 11.2% in 1980 to 9.0% in 1990, and 9.8% in 2000, 9.5% in 2010). Some differences in profile of extrapulmonary TB was noticed. The decrease in pleural tuberculosis occurred (5.8% of all TB and 50% of extrapulmonary TB in 1970; 5.8% and 49.6% in 1980; 4.8% and 52% in 1990; 5.2% and 53.8% in 2000; 2.6% and 27.8% in 2010) and in the bone and joint tuberculosis (2.0% of all TB and 17.3% of extrapulmonary TB in 1970; 1.4% and 12, 9% in 1980; 0.9% and 10.2% in 1990; 0.9% and 9.1% in 2000; 0.9% and 9.2% in 2010) also in central nervous system TB (0.3% of all TB and 2.8% of extrapulmonary TB in 1970; 0.2% and 1.9% in 1980, 0.1% and 1.7% in 1990, 0.1% and 1.4% in 2000; 0.1% and 1.3% in 2010). Conclusions. The demographic characteristics of TB patients changed in Poland in last 40 years with the shift to older age groups however the proportion of TB at extrapulmonary sites remained stable. It is interesting although unexplained finding.