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Title: Effects of a complication of non-tuberculous mycobacterium on interstitial pneumonia

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Body: Background It is widely recognized that non-tuberculous mycobacteria complicate underlying pulmonary diseases. Interstitial pneumonia, which is characterized by pulmonary fibrotic changes with various potential etiologies, will be treated by immunosuppressants, and can be complicated by non-tuberculous mycobacteria. However, the effect of a complication of non-tuberculous mycobacteria on the clinical outcomes of interstitial pneumonia has been little addressed. Methods Patients, who were diagnosed as having interstitial pneumonia and showed at least one isolation of non-tuberculous mycobacterium from respiratory samples, were difined as cases, while patients with a diagnosis of interstitial pneumonia and no isolation of non-tubeculous mycobacterium were screened as matched-controls. Results A total of twelve and twenty four patients were identified as cases and controls, respectively. The median age of cases was 64.0 years, while that of controls was 58.0 years, and the distribution of sex was the same in both groups as being 66.7% of male patients. 58.3% of cases and 29.2% of controls showed UIP pattern, which was not significantly different. Both groups were treated similarly and 75.0% of patients received some immunosuppressants. The median survival of cases was 9 years after the diagnosis of interstitial pneumonia was made, which was not significantly different from that of controls. Conclusion Non-tuberculous mycobacterium was tended to be complicated in interstitial pneumonia with UIP pattern, however, no significant effect of a complication of non-tuberculous mycobacterium on the survival of patients with interstitial pneumonia was demonstrated.