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Title: Particularities of pulmonary tuberculosis in elderly

Ines 25809 Zendah dr.zendah@gmail.com MD , Hamida 25810 Kwas kwassmedecine@yahoo.fr MD , Aymen 25811 Ayari ayariaymen10@gmail.com MD , Imen 25812 Elmjendel imenelmjendel@gmail.com MD , Amel 25813 Khattab amelkkk@rocketmail.com MD and Habib 25820 Ghedira ghedirahabib@gmail.com MD . ¹ Department I of Pulmonary Diseases, Abderrahmen Mami Hospital, Ariana, Tunisia .

Body: Introduction: Elderly represents a high risk group to infections including tuberculosis. This may influence the presentation and the outcome of tuberculosis (TB) in this population. Aim: To determine epidemiologic, clinical, radiologic and outcome of pulmonary TB in patients older than 65 years. Material and methods: Retrospective study including 26 old patients (>65 years old) hospitalized in our department for tuberculosis. Results: There were 19 men and 5 women. The mean age was 68.6 years. Tobacco smoking was present in 17 patients (66%). Diabetes mellitus was present in 11 patients (42, 6%), arterial hypertension in 8 patients (30%) and chronic pulmonary lung disease in 6 cases (23%). Delay before seeking a doctor was 2 months. Clinical features were dominated by isolated decreased general status and fever (77%). Radiologic features were represented by extended bilateral infiltrates in 52 % of cases, associated to excavations in 23 % of cases. A pleural opacity related to effusion was present in 27% of cases. Acido-alcool-resistant bacilli were found in the expectorations in only 6 cases (23%). In 3 cases (12%), they were isolated thanks to fibro-aspiration. In the rest of cases were isolated only on culture. In 4 patients (15%), there was a delay (>1month) to bacilli negativation. Noteworthy complications during hospitalization were noted in 12 of cases (46.15%). Conclusion: In elderly tuberculosis is particular by its inhabit clinical presentation leading to delayed diagnosis, by the atypical radiologic distribution of the lesions, the delay of negativation of the bacillus from the expectoration and the elevated complications of the disease; This is likely to be due to age and to comorbidities.