

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

Abstract Number: 1914

Publication Number: P2668

Abstract Group: 10.2. Tuberculosis

Keyword 1: Tuberculosis - diagnosis **Keyword 2:** Tuberculosis - management **Keyword 3:** Tuberculosis - mechanism

Title: Patients diagnosed of TB in the Ourense area in the last decade: A descriptive study

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Body: Objective: to assess the annual incidence TB and its epidemiology Material and methods: retrospective study on patients diagnosed of tuberculosis during the decade 1999-2009. Data collecting was possible thanks to the "Programa Galego de Prevención y Control de Tuberculosis" The usual descriptive study was then performed based on these data; quantitative variables were expressed as mean \pm SD, whereas the qualitative ones as absolute frequencies or percentages, using the χ^2 test to assess associations among them. Results: the whole series included a total of 1746 cases, with a greater incidence among males and those between 24 – 35 yr. Exposure to infected persons, smoking habit, alcoholism and immunosuppression were the main risk factors. The most common site of infection was pulmonary (67.5%), followed by pleural (14%), lymphadenopathies (7.1 %) and others (9.3 %). With regard to microbiology, the best yield could be obtained from culture (positive in 80% of cases), whereas the detection of AFB was positive only in 41% of patients. The chest X-ray was pathologic in 93.3%, even though cavitations were only present in 27.6 % of cases. The scheduled therapy was completed and microbiological cure was attained in 85.6 %, which fares favourably compared to other published series. The global death rate was 10.63 %, but only 1.1 % were attributable to TB. Conclusions: · The incidence of pulmonary TB has clearly decreased in the preceeding years, although it still prevails in males and in the 24-35 yr.-old group. ·The "pathological X-ray with cavitation" was observed in 28 % of cases. ·85.6% completed the scheduled treatment. · The global death rate was 10.63 %, but TB just accounted for 1.1%.