Title: Tuberculosis mortality in children in Romania

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Body: Introduction: Despite the efficient chemotherapy of TB has been introduced in practice from more than half century, there are still TB deceases even in children all over the world. In Romania TB mortality in children was 0.34‰ in 2010 and 0.31‰ in 2011. Aim and objectives: To analyze the demographic and clinic characteristics of children died from TB in Romania in 2010 and 2011. Method: The records of children deceased from TB in Romania in 2010 and 2011 have been extracted from electronic National TB Register and have been analyzed by demographic and clinic parameters. Results: There have been reported 21 TB deceases in children in Romania: 11 in 2010 and 10 in 2011. The demographic characteristics of 21 cases were: 52.4% males, 47.6% living in urban and 85.7% under 5 years old (23.8% even under 1 year old). As diagnostic, 61.9% had severe TB forms: 28.6% meningitis, 19.0% miliaria and 14.3% both forms. In one case a previous TB episode has been reported. From 8 cases tested for HIV infection, 2 have been found positive and started on antiretroviral therapy. In 7 cases the smear microscopy was positive for acid-fast bacilli in bronchial aspirate/cephalo-rachidian liquid, but culture was positive in only 2 cases. No MDR-TB strain has been observed. In 2 cazeous pneumonia cases the histological examination of lung biopsy collected at necropsy, showed granulomas with central cazeification. Due to the fast decease after diagnostic or to the post-mortem diagnosis in 7 cases the chemotherapy has not even being started. Conclusion: The still existing TB deceases in children require urgent measures for early detection of childhood TB cases, them efficient management and better education of vulnerable population groups.