

Editor's comments:

1. The authors used only the X-ray? The authors used tomography (CT it does not) or CT?
2. The authors write that 10 patients had normal chest radiographs. But the inclusion of the group were patients with MTB in the sputum (ZN). Typically, the presence of the MTB in the sputum microscopy method (ZN) have to be changes in the lungs. Maybe it is tuberculosis of bronchus without any visible changes to radiographs, but it happens very rarely. Why 10%? How was diagnosed of TB (this 10%), only for the use of ZN?
3. Fibrosis in tuberculosis formed after recovering or prolonged duration of TB (a few years), and is usually followed by destruction. there is a form of tuberculosis - fibrous-cavernous lung form of TB. Why do the authors note fibrosis in 45 patients, and the destruction of 11?
4. INCLUSION CRITERIA: No prior history of active tuberculosis. If the process has the fibrosis is usually the old process. Why exception was past history of tuberculosis?
5. The authors found calcification in the lungs?

Authors' feedback:

1. Only X-rays were used because the study was done in a poor resource setting. CT is quite expensive in the study area.
2. Radiological evidence of MTB lags behind laboratory diagnosis of MTB. 10% sputum positive but radiologically naïve may be deceptive in the absence of CT scan. CT scan will give more information radiologically compare to radiograph but this centre does not have the facility. It is also possible some of them might have tuberculosis of the bronchus which likely not visualized in the radiograph as compared to CT.
3. Not all cases of lung fibrosis in MTB is associated with cavitations in the lung and moreover lung fibrosis and destruction are better visualized on CT compare to radiography. CT was not used in this setting due to the above reason.
4. This was done in order to eliminate bias. Sputum positive via laboratory ZN stain surface. The level of education and awareness of the patients is low, asking about the past history may return false positive result therefore affecting the findings.
5. No calcifications seen in this study