



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**Respiratory Medicine**

**NTM : THE BIGGEST TB MIMIC IN AN ENDEMIC COUNTRY LIKE INDIA**

**KEY WORDS:**

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**BACKGROUND / AIM :**

- 1) To microbiologically confirm the diagnosis of TB and DRTB
- 2) To differentiate TB from NTM infections before starting on empirical anti tb drugs in an endemic country like India

DISEASE: AN OFFICIAL ATS/ERS/ESCMID/IDSA CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

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- 3) DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIAL LUNG DISEASE: CLINICIANS' PERSPECTIVES
- JOURNAL OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES SEOUL

**METHODS :**

India is the TB Capital of the world. Around 1 person dies of TB every 8 minutes in the country. Still Today in many parts of interiors of the country, many people are started on anti tb drugs without proper microbiological confirmation of the disease. We did this study in a tier 3 city of the country to prove how NTM is often misdiagnosed and treated like TB which might be one of the reasons of increased drug resistance in the country.

This study was performed at Dr. Ulhas Patil Medical College and hospital , Jalgaon Maharashtra, india from a period of 1<sup>st</sup> july 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> march 2022. We performed bronchoscopy on 50 patients who were sputum negative suspected tb but started on empirical anti tb drugs from outside. We sent the BAL fluid for proper analysis and TB culture. We followed up patients with proper reports and treatment.

**Inclusion Criteria :**

All patients between age 10-70 who were diagnosed as TB but had no microbiological evidence for it

**Exclusion Criteria :**

- Patients with microbiological proven
- TB Patients with known malignancy and not willing to undergo bronchoscopy

**RESULT :**

In our study we found out that 09 patients out of 50 had NTM infection proven on culture and were misdiagnosed as TB. Out of 09... 2 were mycobacterium abscessus, 2 were mycobacterium chimaera, 2 M Gordonea, 2 M Kansaii, and 1 MAC . All of them were stoped with anti tb drugs and treated with specific drugs indicated to have a almost complete clinical response and radiological resolution

Total patients	NTM	M. ABSCESSUS	M. CHIMAE	M. GORDONIA	M. KANSALII	MAC
50	09	02	02	02	02	01

**CONCLUSION :**

In a country like India it is very important to microbiologically diagnose and confirm TB as the man made hazard of DRTB is on rampant rise. NTM is the biggest TB Mimic and is often missed . It is very important to use proper diagnostic modalities to confirm diagnosis before initiating patients on anti tb drugs.

**REFERENCES :**

- 1) JOURNAL OF CLINICAL TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER MYCOBACTERIAL DISEASES VOLUME 24, AUGUST 2021, 100244
- 2) TREATMENT OF NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIAL PULMONARY