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Title: Atypical pulmonary tuberculosis

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Body: Introduction: Tuberculosis remains a common disease, but despite this, it is often diagnosed with long delay due to some atypical presentations. The aim of our work is to know unusual shapes because they may pose problems of differential diagnosis especially with malignant diseases. Methods: We report 50 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis atypical between 2000 and 2009: 15 cases of endobronchial tuberculosis, 16 cases with basal localization and 19 cases of pseudotumoral form. Results: The average age is 37 years. Smoking is found in 17 cases and diabetes in 12 cases. The clinical picture is dominated by bronchial syndrome. The chest rays show basal opacity in 16 cases, a pseudo-tumoral opacity in 19 cases and a retractile opacity in 15 cases. Bronchoscopy visualizes endobronchial granuloma in 6 cases, tumor buds in 5 cases and bronchial stenosis with extrinsic compression in 8 cases. CT show suspected tissular process in 19 cases, mediastinal lymphadenopathy associated in 11 cases and alveolar opacity in 5 cases. Pulmonary tuberculosis is confirmed by bacteriology in 23 cases, bronchial biopsies in 8 cases, transmural biopsy in 7 cases, by thoracotomy in 6 cases and by lymph node biopsy in 2 cases. Antibacillary treatment was prescribed in all cases with good evolution in 36 cases (72%). Conclusions: Pulmonary tuberculosis may mimic atypical, mainly malignancy hence the interest to recognize its various unusual shapes.