

European Respiratory Society Annual Congress 2012

Abstract Number: 614

Publication Number: P2708

Abstract Group: 10.2. Tuberculosis

Keyword 1: Epidemiology **Keyword 2:** Tuberculosis - diagnosis **Keyword 3:** Treatments

Title: Clinical analysis of pulmonary Mycobacterium avium complex disease in Japan

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Body: Objective: To analyze the clinical characteristics of patients who diagnosed pulmonary Mycobacterium complex (MAC) disease recently in the affiliated several hospitals. Patients and methods: The subjects consisted of 150 patients who satisfied the diagnostic criteria of ATS between 2003 and 2010. We evaluated the backgrounds, diagnostic methods, microbiological findings, radiological findings, treatments, and prognosis. Results: The average age of 150 patients with pulmonary MAC disease was 65.0 years old. The detection method was most frequently recognized by bronchoscopy (50%). The microbiological findings were smear positive for acid-fast bacilli in 98 patients (65%) and the sensitivity of isolated MAC for antituberculous drugs and other antibiotics was comparatively good for clarithromycin (CAM) and rifampicin (RFP). The clinical disease type of pulmonary MAC disease consisted of nodular/bronchiectatic type in 101 patients (67%), fibrocavitary type in 43 (29%) and solitary nodular type in 6 (4%), respectively. Concerning the treatment for pulmonary MAC disease, the combined chemotherapy including CAM was performed for 76 patients (51%). Sputum conversion rate was 76%, the sputum relapse rate was 31% and the clinical improvement including radiological findings and/or clinical symptoms was obtained in 49%. Conclusions: We positively perform the bronchoscopic examination to obtain the diagnosis of pulmonary MAC disease. The diagnostic rate of pulmonary MAC disease has recently increased with the revise of diagnostic criteria reported in 2007 and we could obtain comparatively good clinical effect by the positive performance of combination chemotherapy including the increase dose of CAM.