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Title: Experience of using diaskintest in adult patients with tuberculosis and non-tuberculosis respiratory diseases in a regional TB hospital

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Body: The study of a new Diaskintest (DST) diagnostic test for tuberculosis was conducted to assess the sensitivity and specificity of the test. A total of 370 patients aged 17 to 82 years, treated in the TB hospital in Saratov (Russia) in 2010-2012, included: • 257 patients with tuberculosis (TB) (including 42 patients with HIV infection – 16.3%) • 113 patients with non-tuberculous respiratory diseases (NTRD) (including 3 patients with HIV infection - 2.7%). In the TB group, a positive DST result was detected in 73.9% (taking into account any papule size, mean size 10.6 ± 9.18 mm). In the non-HIV TB group, the number of responders was 78.1%, M 11.2 ± 8.97 mm. In the group of HIV-positive TB patients only 52.4% reacted, M 7.4 ± 9.70 (p < 0.01). In the NTRD group, a positive reaction to DST was observed in 40.1% of cases (including patients with pneumonia - in 36.5% of cases; with COPD - in 55.6%; with benign tumors - in 55.6%; with malignant tumors - in 41.7%; with sarcoidosis – in 33.4%; with residual changes after an inflammatory disease – in 37.5%). **CONCLUSION** According to our data, the sensitivity of Diaskintest diagnostic test in patients with pulmonary tuberculosis was 78.1%. A positive response to the DST was also noted in 40.1% (p < 0.001) of patients with non-tuberculous lung diseases.