


Natural History of Untreated Pulmonary Tuberculosis

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2019 Chicago Tuberculosis Conference
In commemoration of World TB Day

Kathy Ritger, MD, MPH
Chicago Department of Public Health

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Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course participants will be able to:

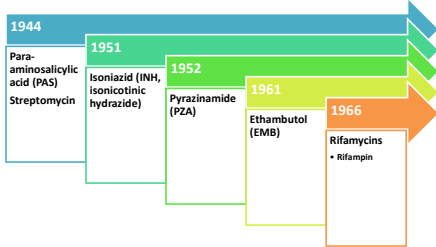
- Discuss the prognosis and mortality rate of untreated pulmonary TB
- Recall local, state, and national TB data trends; Define whole genome sequencing (WGS) and how it is used in TB epidemiologic and contact investigations.
- Describe steps needed for a mass TB screening; identify appropriate TB test for individual patients.
- Identify strategies to reduce or stop alcohol consumption among patients with TB
- Identify components of nurse care management, as it pertains to tuberculosis and discuss various approaches to challenging situations

Tuberculosis in the Pre-Antibiotic Era

Consumption / Phthisis

- Sanitaria movement mid-19th to mid-20th centuries
 - Fresh air, high altitude
 - Bed rest
 - Nutrition
 - Collapse lung (pneumothorax)
 - Resect lung (pneumonectomy)
- National Jewish Health (Denver) estimates 2 of 3 patients died within 5 years of diagnosis

Development of Anti-TB Antibiotics



Year	Antibiotic(s)
1944	Para-aminosalicylic acid (PAS), Streptomycin
1951	Isoniazid (INH), isonicotinic hydrazide)
1952	Pyrazinamide (PZA)
1961	Ethambutol (EMB)
1966	Rifamycins (Rifampin)

Why Wouldn't You Treat TB??

- Low resource countries
 - TB may go undetected & undiagnosed
 - Free treatment might only be available to smear+ cases
 - Patients co-infected with HIV and those drug resistance may have a prognosis similar to that of untreated TB
- High resource countries
 - TB may go undetected & undiagnosed
 - Lack of patient cooperation

How to Study Untreated TB?

- Unethical to do a study
- “Natural History of Tuberculosis: Duration and Fatality of Untreated Tuberculosis in HIV Negative Patients: A Systematic Review”

Authors: Tiemersma, EW; van der Werf, M; Borgdoff, MW; Williams, BG; Nagelkerke, N.J.D.
Journal: PLoS ONE, Vol. 6, Issue 4, April 2011

Systematic Review - Methodology

- Eligibility criteria
 - Adult populations (>15 years of age)
 - Pulmonary TB
 - Written in English, French, German, Spanish, or Dutch
- Search strategy
 - Electronic search (PubMed, etc.) yielded no eligible papers
 - Therefore, “snowball sampling” performed, starting from a classic textbook and researching references
 - Studies included if sound methodology, original data, distinguished between smear+ and -, sufficient follow up time, and no effective chemotherapy provided

Systematic Review - Results

- 2256 records identified
 - 85 excluded because of insufficient reference
 - 2062 excluded after review of title or article not available for review
 - 109 articles assessed
 - 87 excluded b/c unclear description of type of TB, insufficient info to calculate survival rate or duration of disease, or biased patient population
 - 22 eligible for qualitative synthesis
 - 16 of these eligible for synthesis of case fatality

Systematic Review - Discussion

- Studies were heterogeneous, so unable to do a formal meta-analysis
- Main findings
 - 10-year case fatality for *smear-positive* patients is between 53% and 86%, with a weighted mean of 70%
 - 10-year case fatality of *culture-positive smear-negative* is indirectly estimated to be ~20% (uncertain precision)
 - Duration of TB from onset to cure or death is about 3 years (similar for smear+ and smear-)

