

# Extrapulmonary TB



# Tuberculosis. Site of disease

- Pulmonary case

A case with TB affecting the lung parenchyma, the tracheo-bronchial tree or the larynx.

- Extrapulmonary case (EPTB)

TB affecting any site other than pulmonary as defined above.

Pleural TB and intrathoracic lymphatic TB without involvement of the lung parenchyma are classified as extrapulmonary

*ECDC, 2012*

<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications>

- The diagnosis of EPTB can be elusive, necessitating a high index of suspicion.
- Physicians should obtain a thorough history focusing on risk behaviors for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and tuberculosis.

## Epidemiology

- 10-70% of patients TB will manifest in organs other than lungs  
Depending on age, gender, race and immunological competency.

*Cowie RL et al, 1997; Yang H et al, 2005*

A high incidence of EPTB has become somehow  
synonymous with the HIV infection

- EPTB accounts about 10–50% of all cases of TB

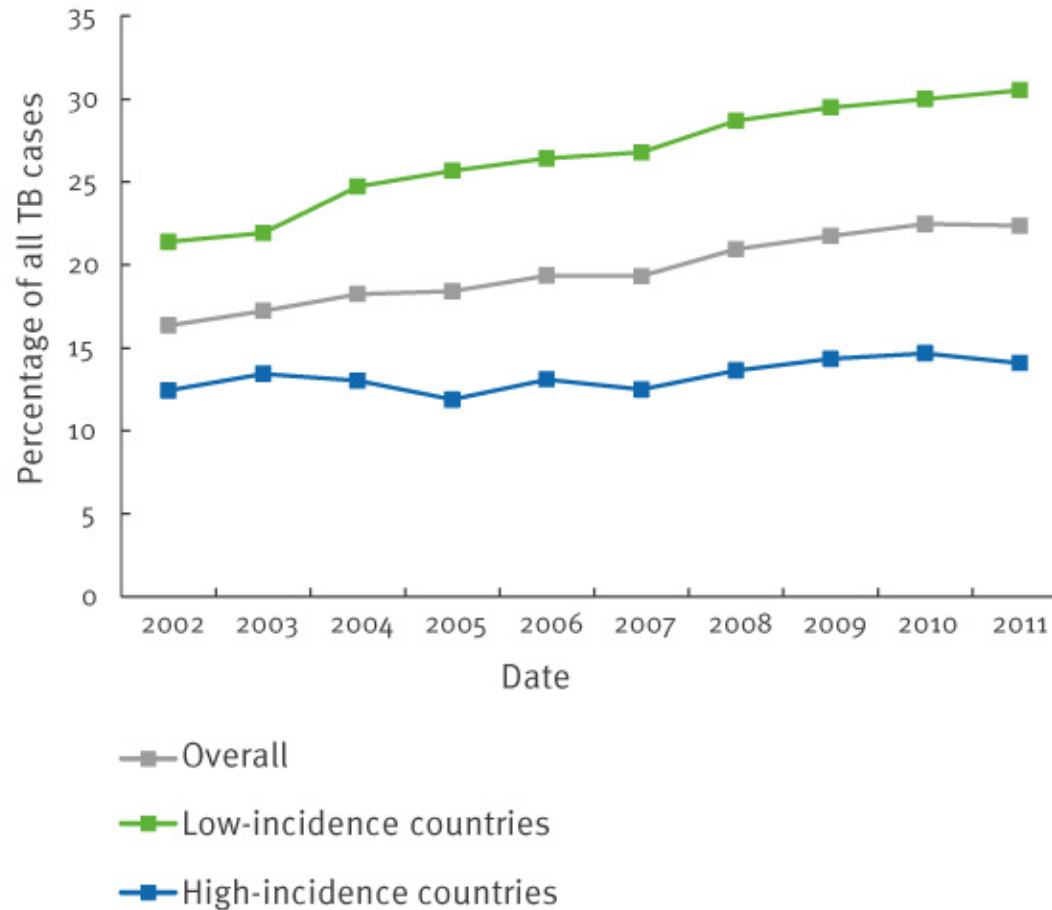
In the era before the HIV pandemic

In studies involving immunocompetent adults

- EPTB accounts for more than 50% (35-70%) of all cases of TB  
In HIV-positive patients

**FIGURE 2**

Proportion of extrapulmonary tuberculosis, by year and incidence level, EU/EEA Member States, 2002–11



EU/EEA: European Union/European Economic Area; TB: tuberculosis.

# Notified extrapulmonary TB cases, EU/EEA, 2014

**21.8%** of TB cases were extrapulmonary TB  
(range 3.2–46.0%)

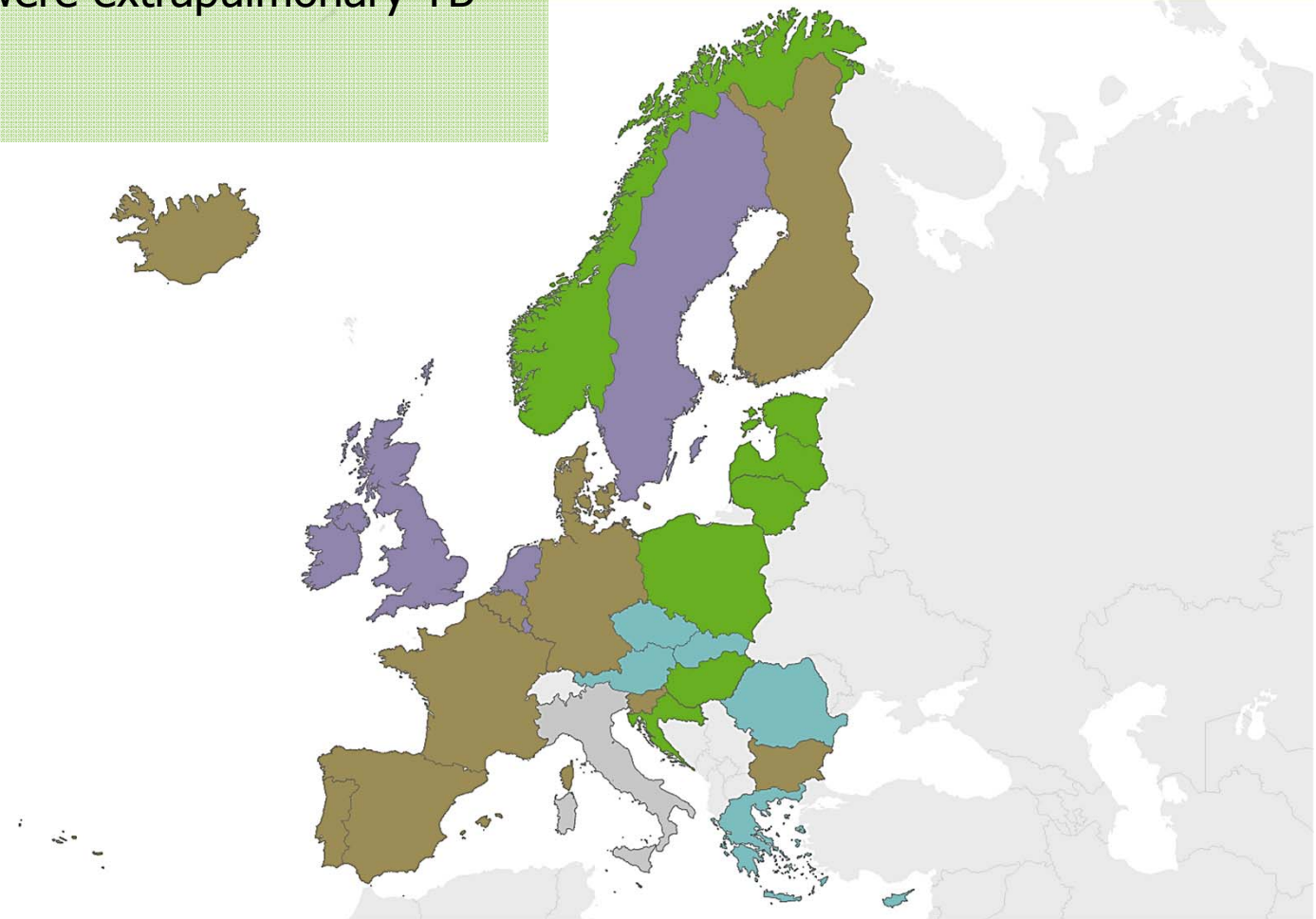
0 to 9.9%

10 to 19.9%

20 to 29.9%

≥ 30%

Not reporting



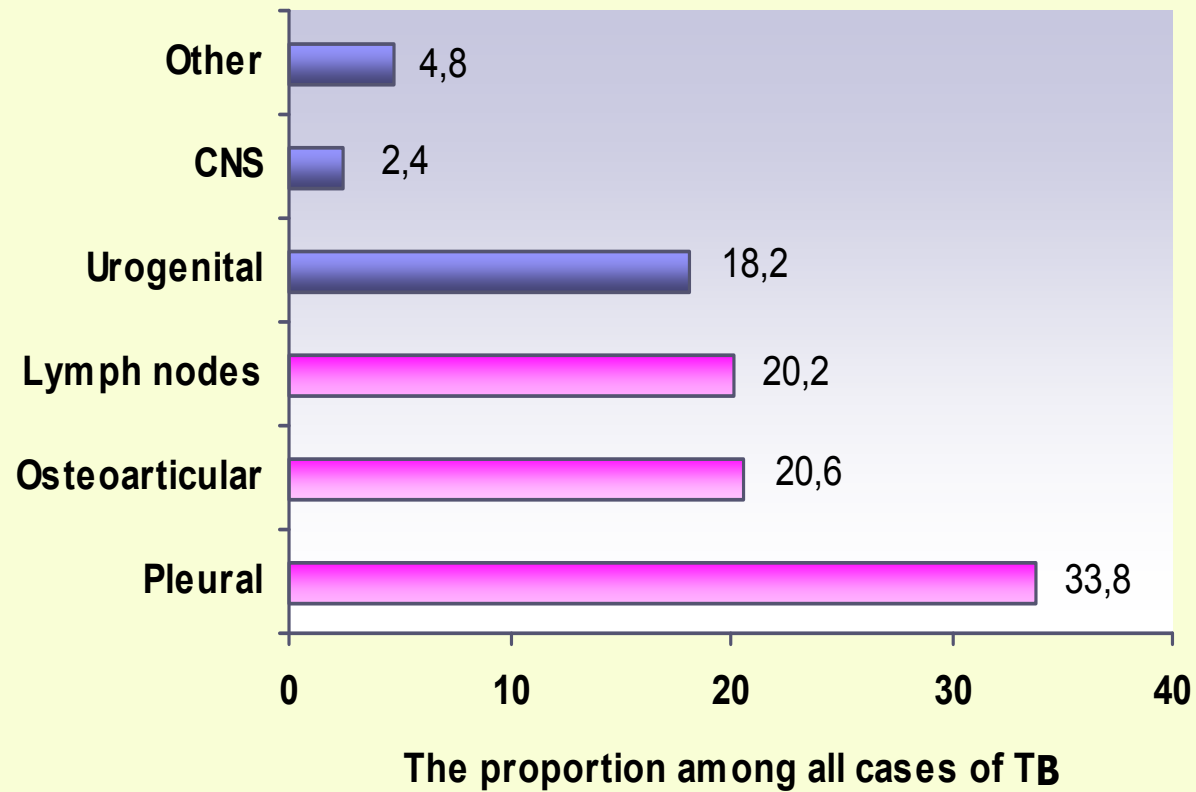
Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.  
TB surveillance and monitoring in Europe, 2016.

## The proportion of EPTB cases in Europe, 2013 %

	<b>EPTB only</b>	<b>PTB + EPTB</b>
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>7,6</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Albania</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>
Denmark	12	7
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>4,3</b>	<b>1,4</b>
<b>France</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>
Usbekistan	38	
Czech Rep	14	3
<b>UK</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Latvia</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Iceland</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>12</b>

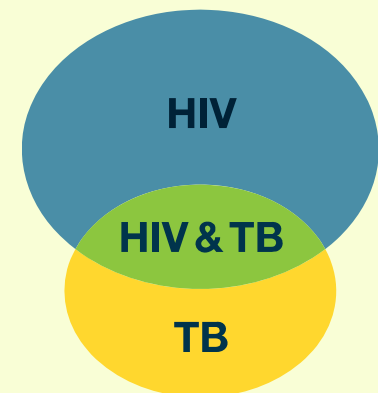
*ECDC, 2015*

Pleural, osteoarticular and lymph node TB  
were the three leading sites of EPTB 1991–2000, Estonia



# HIV

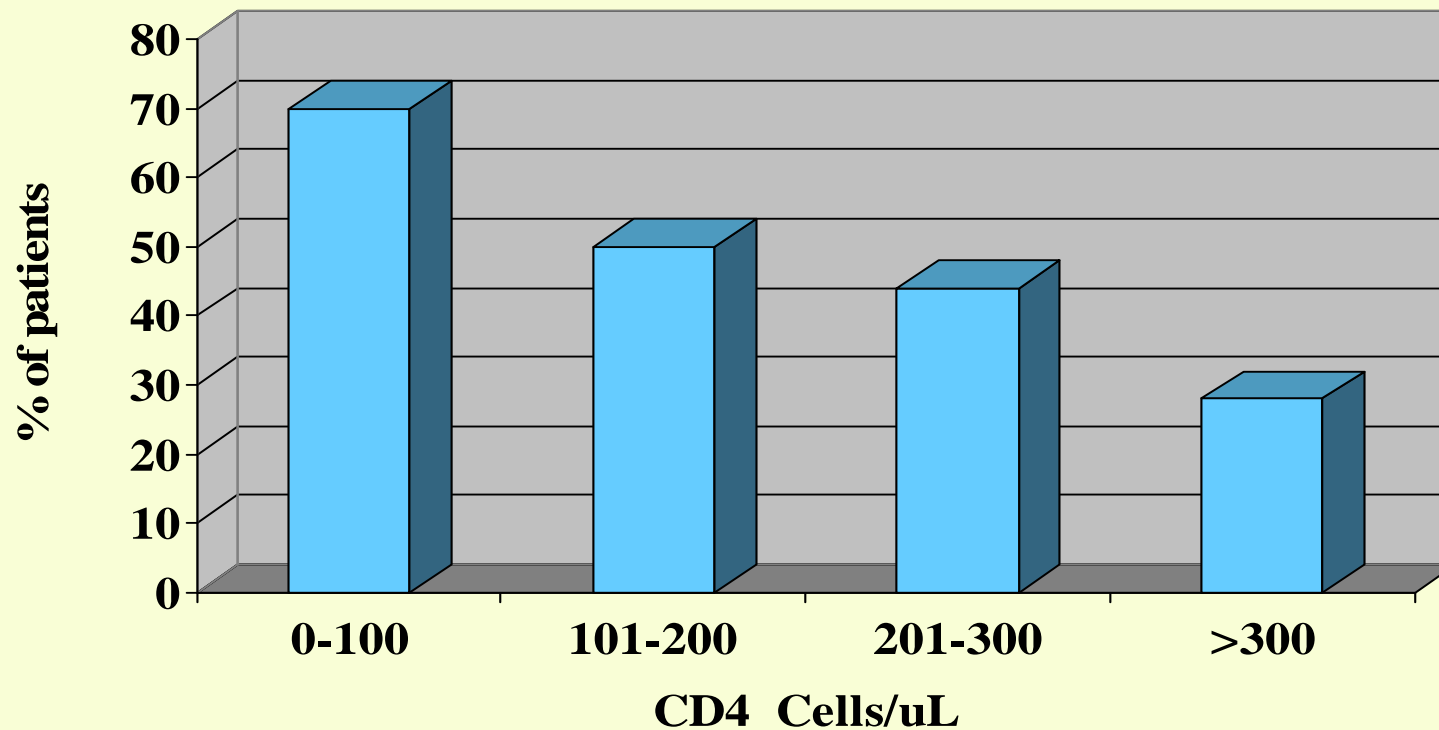
- The incidence of EPTB is considered to be quite constant in societies where immunocompromising infections are of low prevalence.
- Most forms of EPTB among infants, children, and adolescents represent recent infection, EPTB with a short latent period: pleural TB, tuberculous lymphadenitis
- Among older persons, except these with AIDS, most cases of EPTB represent late reactivation, remote in time from primary infection (long latent period): osteoarticular TB, urogenital TB





## EPTB in immunocompromised persons

### Frequency of EPTB among persons with various levels of CD4 Lymphocyte Counts



The risk of EPTB and mycobacteremia increases with advancing immunosuppression

# EPTB in immunocompromised persons

- **1. HIV/AIDS**
- **2. Immunocompromised individuals (other than HIV/AIDS)**
  - **Solid organ and stem cell transplants**
  - **Tumor-necrosis factor (TNF- $\alpha$ ) blocking medication**
  - **Renal failure**
  - **Corticosteroid medication**
  - **Neoplasia / malignancy**
  - **Diabetes**
  - **Silicosis**
  - **Gastro-intestinal surgery**
  - **Aging**

# Tumour-necrosis factor (TNF- $\alpha$ ) blocking medication

## Tumour necrosis factor:

- key role in mediating immune responses in acute and chronic inflammatory diseases
- - key cytokine in the host immune response against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (granuloma integrity)
- TNF- $\alpha$  blocking medication increasingly used for treatment of:
  - - rheumatoid arthritis
  - - inflammatory bowel disease (morbus Crohn)
  - - psoriasis
  - - morbus Bechterev )

**25 September 2013, European Advanced Course in Clinical Tuberculosis**

## Tumour-necrosis factor (TNF- $\alpha$ ) blocking medication

- **Relative risk 1.5 - 25 higher compared to patients not receiving TNF- $\alpha$  antagonists:**
- **TNF- $\alpha$  antagonists:** - reactivation of latent TB infection / progression of *de novo* infection - close proximity with start of treatment - rapid progression - disseminated disease
- - TNF- $\alpha$  antagonist used (infliximab (Remicade®) and adalimumab (Humira®) soluble receptor etanercept (Enbrel®)↑

## Solid organ and stem cell transplant recipients

- Immunocompromised (impaired cellular immunity) patients have **higher incidence of TB** compared with the general population
- Lung: Relative risk 5.6 times higher compared to other organ transplants
- **Risk already increased due to co-morbidity / co-medication:** (renal failure, liver failure, corticosteroids, methotrexate, azathioprine)
- Balance between cellular immune containment of latent TB infection and bacterial replication is disturbed

## Solid organ and stem cell transplant recipients

- **Pathogenesis Immunocompromised patients can differ with respect to:**
- - risk of **progression** to active TB ↑
- - **reactivation** of latent TB infection
- - progression from **primary** infection
  
- - presentation: -
- -less sputum smear-positivity
- - **more extrapulmonary and disseminated disease**
- risk of Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome (IRIS)

# Solid organ and stem cell transplant recipients

## Latent TB infection and TB

- - TB occurs early (< 6) months after transplant (enhanced immunosuppression) but in renal and stem cell transplant recipients usually later
- - more extrapulmonary disease

*Singh N, Paterson DL. Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection in solid-organ transplants recipients: impact and implications for management. Clin Infect Dis 1998;27.*

**25 September 2013, European Advanced Course in Clinical Tuberculosis**

# Neoplasia / malignancy

- form of malignancy
- extent of spread
- clinical condition
- level of immune suppression
  
- **Higher risk (RR 16) for developing TB**  
in haematological malignancies (leukaemia, lymphoma)  
than solid malignancies - high dose corticosteroids! –  
haematopoietic stem cell recipients!
  
- Higher risk for carcinoma of head and neck (RR 3 – 7)

**25 September 2013, European Advanced  
Course in Clinical Tuberculosis**



## Screening of immunocompromised individuals

- **Solid organ and stem cell transplant recipients** –
  - all candidates should be screened –
  - test early (before immunosuppression; treatment completion)
- **TNF-alpha candidates** –
  - all candidates should be screened –
  - test early (before immunosuppression; treatment completion)
- **But they are more difficult to test for latent TB infection**
  - immune-based testing
  - corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medication

# EPTB. Diagnosis.

1. The diagnosis of EPTB - more difficult to establish than pulmonary TB because of the protean nature of the disease and lack of a simple screening test such as chest radiography

2. **Important to isolate MBT (smear, culture).**

All secrets, fluids, biopsies. bronchial lavage, pleural effusions, cerebrospinal fluid, urine, gastric aspirates, lymph nodes, bone marrow, blood

3. **Blood**

Special BACTEC 9050 liquid culture systems

Numerous articles have reported on the **utility of various PCR methods** on miscellaneous material other than sputum

Considerable variability in the results of the studies

Nucleic acid amplification techniques are more sensitive than microscopy



# Extrapulmonary TB, diagnosis

## The general symptoms of TB disease, pulmonary or extrapulmonary

- Weight loss
- Fatigue
- Malaise
- Fever
- Night sweats

## The symptoms of extrapulmonary TB disease depend on site of disease.

For example, TB of the spine may cause pain in the back; TB of the kidney may cause blood in the urine. All of these symptoms may be caused by other diseases, but they should prompt the clinician to suspect TB disease.

## Previous TB infection or TB disease.

## The medical history

Simultaneous Pulmonary TB: 18 – 28 %, 33% of EPTB cases

Chest X-ray, CT – alwey in suspicion of EPTB

Nonspecific changes in blood test, biochemistry (Hgl, SR, CRP, Lymphocytopenia)

# Recommended tests for diagnosis of EPTB Site Imaging

Site	Imaging	Biopsy	Culture
<b>Lymph node*</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Node</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Node or aspirate</li> </ul>
<b>Bone/joint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plain X-ray and computed tomography (CT)</li> <li>• Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)</li> <li>• Ultrasound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biopsy or para-spinal abscess</li> <li>• Site or joint fluid</li> </ul>
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ultrasound</li> <li>• CT abdomen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Omentum</li> <li>• Bowel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biopsy</li> <li>• Ascites</li> </ul>
<b>Genitourinary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intravenous urography</li> <li>• Ultrasound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early morning urine</li> <li>• Site of disease</li> <li>• Endometrial curettings</li> </ul>
<b>Disseminated</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High resolution CT thorax</li> <li>• Ultrasound abdomen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lung</li> <li>• Liver</li> <li>• Bone marrow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bronchial wash</li> <li>• Liver</li> <li>• Bone marrow</li> <li>• Blood</li> </ul>
<b>Central nervous system**</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CT brain</li> <li>• MRI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuberculoma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cerebrospinal fluid</li> </ul>
<b>Skin</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of disease</li> </ul>
<b>Pericardium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Echocardiogram</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pericardium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pericardial fluid</li> </ul>
<b>Cold/liver abscess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ultrasound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site of disease</li> </ul>

## **EPTB, microbiological confirmation**

Lymphatic TB  
nodule

the preferred method for diagnosis is biopsy of involved

Pleural TB

thoracocentesis with pleural fluid analysis: smear for MB is rarely positive, some other attributes characteristic of TB  
pleural biopsy

Genitourinary TB

urine, affected tissues

Bone and Joint TB

synovial fluid, open joint synovial biopsy is the most sensitive method for the diagnosis of tuberculosis arthritis

Central Nervous System

cerebrospinal fluid. Microscopy positive for AFB in 20-37%, culture positive in 40-80%, increase yield with repeat studies

Abdominal TB

laparoscopic evaluation with guided biopsy is the diagnostic procedure of choice. Paracentesis of ascitic fluid - positive smears occur in a minority of cases

Pericardial Tuberculosis

bacteriological study of pericardial tissue or fluid

# Pleural Tuberculosis

- Patient from high-risk social, socioeconomic, employment groups
- X-ray: unilateral effusion (500-1000 ml)
- Underlying parenchymal lesions 20 -50% by plain chest radiographs
- Wide array of manifestations of pleural TB
  
- Symptoms:
  - chest pain – pleuritic, sharp, associated with respiration
  - cough – nonproductive
  - fever – very common
- Dyspnea, chills, sweats, weight loss, malaise –occur more commonly with advanced disease
- Duration of symptoms 4,7 – 17,5 days - primary cases  
10,1 – 62 days – reactivateral effusion  
disease  
*(Antoniskis, 1990)*
- Physical examination –minimal abnormalities
  - Dullness to percussion, diminished breath sounds
- Tuberculin skin test – falsely negative in a substantial proportion of patients (12%, 31%)

## Clinical Clues to Prompt Suspicion of Extrapulmonary Tuberculosis

- Ascites with lymphocyte predominance and negative bacterial cultures
- Chronic lymphadenopathy (especially cervical)
- CSF lymphocytic pleocytosis with elevated protein and low glucose
- Differential diagnosis of Crohn's disease and amebiasis
- Exudative pleural effusion with lymphocyte predominance, negative bacterial cultures, and pleural thickening
- HIV infection
- Joint inflammation (monoarticular) with negative bacterial cultures
- Persistent sterile pyuria
- Tuberculosis-endemic country of origin
- Unexplained pericardial effusion, constrictive pericarditis, or pericardial calcification
- Vertebral osteomyelitis involving the thoracic spine

# Treatment

- The basic principles that underlie the treatment of pulmonary TB, also apply to EPTB
- Usually 6-9 month regimen ( 2 + 4-7 months )
- TB meningitis 9-12 months  
Some authors – up to 2 years

Some patients being treated for TB meningitis develop tuberculomas during therapy, perhaps as a form of paradoxical reaction.

This does not necessarily indicate treatment failure

*Am J respir Crit Care Med 2003; 167: 603-622*