

P1049 Particularities of osteo-articular tuberculosis among elderly

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Background: Osteoarticular tuberculosis (OTB) is often diagnosed at an advanced stage because of the insidious clinical presentation and all age groups are concerned. In this perspective, we aimed to study the epidemiological, clinical and therapeutic aspects of OTB among elderly.

Materials/methods: We reported a retrospective study including all patients with OTB in Southern Tunisia between 1993 and 2016.

Results: We identified 181 cases with OTB among them there were 62 cases (34.2%) aged over 60 years old. The mean age was 69 ± 7 years old. There were 34 females (54.8%). Forty patients (64.5%) came from rural area. The most common site was spondylodiscitis in 52 cases (83.8%). Multifocal tuberculosis was noted in 8 cases (12.9%). There were 5 cases of OTB (8.1%) with concomitant pulmonary tuberculosis. Other extra-pulmonary tuberculosis sites associated to OTB were cutaneous in 4 cases (6.5%) and neuro-meningeal in 3 cases (4.8%). Lymph node, abdominal and urogenital tuberculosis were noted in one case (1.6%) in each case. Intra-dermo tuberculin reaction was positive in 10 cases (16.1%). Dissociated forms of anti-tubercular therapy were used in 54 cases (87.1%). Mean duration of treatment was 12 ± 5 months. The outcome was favorable in 45 cases (72.6%). Five patients (8.1%) were lost to follow up and 3 patients (4.9%) died. There was no relapsing case.

Conclusions: OTB is associated with a global burden even among elderly. Physicians must be aware of its misleading symptoms because prompt diagnosis may lead to recovery without sequelae.

