

中文題目：肋膜結核之臨床特徵

英文題目：Clinical Features of Pleural Tuberculosis

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Purpose: Pleural tuberculosis is a common and important disease in Taiwan. Previous studies have not focused on the sex differences of pleural tuberculosis. The purpose of the study was to elucidate the clinical features and sex difference in the presentation of pleural tuberculosis.

Method: We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of patients with pleural tuberculosis who initiated therapy at a regional hospital in northern Taiwan between January 2003 and March 2008. The identified characteristics were analyzed and compared in males and females.

Results: Thirty-three patients (24 males and 9 females) with a mean age of 65.8 ± 20.8 years were enrolled into our study. There was a much higher proportion of right pleural involvement than the left and bilateral cases (66.7% vs. 24.2% vs. 9.1%), especially in females (88.9% vs. 11.1% vs. 0.0%). More male than female patients were former or current smokers (58.3% vs. 11.1%, $p = 0.021$), had concurrent pulmonary tuberculosis (37.5% vs. 0.0%, $p = 0.039$), and weakness (58.3% vs. 11.1%, $p = 0.021$). The neutrophil count was higher in males (6.0 ± 2.9 vs. $4.3 \pm 1.4 \times 10^9/L$, $p = 0.033$). The creatinine level was also higher in males (107 ± 40 vs. 77 ± 19 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, $p = 0.006$).

Conclusion: Our study expands the knowledge of the clinical features of pleural tuberculosis. The patients with pleural tuberculosis are male-predominant and older in Taiwan. There are indeed sex differences in the presentation of pleural tuberculosis in Taiwan.

Table 1

The characteristics of patients with pleural tuberculosis and the comparison of males and females

	All patients (n = 33)	Male (n = 24)	Female (n = 9)	p value
Basic characteristic				
Age (year)	65.8 ± 20.8	67.5 ± 18.6	61.1 ± 26.6	0.441
Body mass index (kg/m^2)	23.3 ± 4.3	23.7 ± 4.3	22.3 ± 4.2	0.428

Ever smoking	15 (45.5%)	14 (58.3%)	1 (11.1%)	0.021
Ever habitual drinking	8 (24.2%)	7 (29.2%)	1 (11.1%)	0.394
Underlying disease				
Hypertension	11 (33.3%)	9 (37.5%)	2 (22.2%)	0.681
Diabetes mellitus	6 (18.2%)	6 (25.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0.156
Dyslipidemia	5 (15.2%)	4 (16.7%)	1 (11.1%)	1.000
Hyperuricemia	7 (21.2%)	6 (25.0%)	1 (11.1%)	0.642
Heart disease	8 (24.2%)	6 (25.0%)	2 (22.2%)	1.000
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	5 (15.2%)	5 (20.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0.290
Chronic liver disease	3 (9.1%)	2 (8.3%)	1 (11.1%)	1.000
Renal disease	3 (9.1%)	3 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0.545
Cerebrovascular accident	8 (24.2%)	5 (20.8%)	3 (33.3%)	0.651
History of tuberculosis	4 (12.1%)	4 (16.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0.555

Table 2

The presentations of patients with pleural tuberculosis and the comparison of males and females

	All patients (n = 33)	Male (n = 24)	Female (n = 9)	p value
Side				0.232
Only right side	22 (66.7%)	14 (58.3%)	8 (88.9%)	0.212
Only left side	8 (24.2%)	7 (29.2%)	1 (11.1%)	0.394
Bilateral sides	3 (9.1%)	3 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0.545
Symptom				
Dyspnea	26 (78.8%)	19 (79.2%)	7 (77.8%)	1.000
Cough	23 (69.7%)	16 (66.7%)	7 (77.8%)	0.686
Sputum	17 (51.5%)	13 (54.2%)	4 (44.4%)	0.708
Chest pain	8 (24.2%)	7 (29.2%)	1 (11.1%)	0.394
Chest tightness	6 (18.2%)	5 (20.8%)	1 (11.1%)	1.000
Fever	17 (51.5%)	12 (50.0%)	5 (55.5%)	1.000
Weakness	15 (45.5%)	14 (58.3%)	1 (11.1%)	0.021
Anorexia	12 (36.4%)	9 (37.5%)	3 (33.3%)	1.000
Dizziness	3 (9.1%)	3 (12.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0.545
Weight loss	2 (6.1%)	2 (8.3%)	0 (0.0%)	1.000
Active pulmonary tuberculosis	9 (27.3%)	9 (37.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0.039