

Project Title: Delays in the suspicion and treatment of tuberculosis among critically ill patients in the Intensive Care Units

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Executing Institute: National Taiwan University Hospital

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Abstract:

**Aims:**

The situations of delays in the suspicion and treatment of tuberculosis (TB) among critically ill patients in the intensive care units (ICU) are unknown. We conducted a retrospective study to investigate the risk factors and the outcomes of ICU patients with TB infection.

**Materials and methods:**

A retrospective study enrolled ICU patients with definite diagnosis of TB infection from 2004 to 2006. Clinical features and outcomes were abstracted. Chest radiographs were analyzed blindly for determining whether their patterns contribute independently to patients' delays in diagnosis.

**Results:**

Patients that have delays in diagnosis are tending to be older in age, have history of TB infection, have less severe disease at ICU admission. The hospital mortality is a little bit higher in patients of delays in diagnosis than those who are not. The hospital length of stay is also longer. Patterns of chest radiographs do not have significant difference between these two groups.

**Comments:** Clinicians should keep high suspicion of TB infection in critically ill ICU patients who have history of TB infection, old age, a less higher APACHEII score. Further strategies of tuberculosis infection surveillance other than sputum smear or chest radiograph in these patients should be investigated.