ejpmr, 2024, 11(7), 484-490

SJIF Impact Factor 7.065

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

www.ejpmr.com

Review Article

ISSN 2394-3211

EJPMR

A REVIW ARTICLE ON TUBERCULOSIS IN LYMPH NODE

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Article Received on 22/05/2024 **Article Revised on 12/06/2024** **Article Accepted on 02/07/2024**

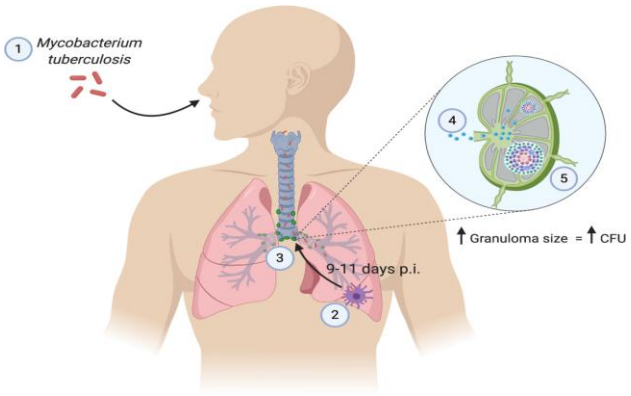
ABSTRACT

Lymph nodes, particularly thoracic lymph nodes, are among the most common sites of extrapulmonary tuberculosis (TB). However, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) infection in these organs is understudied. Aside from being sites of initiation of the adaptive immune system, lymph nodes also serve as niches of Mtb growth and persistence. Mtb infection results in granuloma formation that disrupts and—if it becomes large enough—replaces the normal architecture of the lymph node that is vital to its function. In preclinical models, successful TB vaccines appear to prevent spread of Mtb from the lungs to the lymph nodes. Reactivation of latent TB can start in the lymph nodes resulting in dissemination of the bacteria to the lungs and other organs. Involvement of the lymph nodes may improve Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine efficacy. Lastly, drug penetration to the lymph nodes is poor compared to blood, lung tissue, and lung granulomas. Future studies on evaluating the efficacy of vaccines and anti-TB drug treatments should include consideration of the effects on thoracic lymph nodes and not just the lungs.aaa

KEYWORDS: Tb in lymph node, mycobacterium tuberculosis, MTB.

INTRODUCTION

Tuberculosis (TB) is an antiquated infection that has tormented people for thousands of a long time. It has claimed millions of lives, murdering 1.75 million individuals in 2023 alone, making it the driving cause of passing by a single irresistible operator. It is caused by microscopic organisms, Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb), which are spread in aerosolized beads removed from symptomatic people, i.e., those with dynamic TB. Later gauges propose that around one-quarter of the world's human populace is as of now tainted with this organism without symptomatic and microbiological prove of malady, which is clinically characterized as inactive TB. Indeed in spite of the fact that TB most commonly shows as a aspiratory malady, extrapulmonary TB too happens. In people, Mtb disease more often than not comes about in a Ghon complex—a tuberculous lung injury went with by a granuloma in a thoracic lymph hub. Tainted lymph hubs are considered to be extrapulmonary, indeed if they are inside the thoracic depression, and are the most common locales of extrapulmonary Mtb contamination. Lymph hubs are specialties for Mtb development and determination. Early post-mortem examination considers in people found live Mtb in lymph nodes without signs of TB disease anywhere else in the body.



From the air to the lymph nodes

Infection begins when Mtb enters the airways in inhaled droplet nuclei expelled from individuals with active TB disease. Poulsen published 2 extensive studies in the 1950s detailing the early events in Mtb infection in 517 tuberculin skin test (TST) converters in the Faroe Islands. At the time that Poulsen conducted his study, this group of islands just north of the United Kingdom had a population of 30,000 living in isolated villages. A version of TST was done routinely on all inhabitants, and detailed medical histories were recorded. He determined that the incubation period—i.e., the time from Mtb exposure to the first clinical sign of infection (e.g., fever, erythema nodosum [reddish nodules of inflammation on the skin], TST conversion, X-ray showing hilar adenopathy or lung abnormalities)—is around 40 days. The first sign of infection was almost always onset of fever. The changes seen in chest radiographs were observed early, often coincident with the initial fever, and these changes consisted mainly of enlarged and dense hilar shadows. The hila is composed of pulmonary arteries and veins, major bronchi, and lymph nodes. The common causes of enlarged hila are[1] lymphadenopathy and tumors,[2] arterial or venous hypertension, and[3] increase in pulmonary blood flow. Often, these hilar changes remained for 1–2 years before receding. Pulmonary infiltrates were not as common, present only in a little more than one-third of children and less than one-third of adults, although the radiograph technology at the time was unlikely to be sufficient to detect small initial lung lesions. Of the 517 TST converters, 333 (64%) showed hilar lymphadenitis, which occurred more in children than in adults (78% of children versus 56% of adults). However, after prolonged observation, only approximately 10% of the TST converters developed clinically defined active TB, indicating that the early events involving lymph nodes and lungs occur in a large percentage of people following infection, even though only a fraction of these will go on to develop active disease.

The involvement of lymph nodes during the first month of Mtb infection is well established in mouse models of TB. After aerosol infection, Mtb is phagocytosed by alveolar macrophages, myeloid dendritic cells (DC) and neutrophils in the lungs. While other respiratory viral and bacterial pathogens induce DC migration to the lymph nodes to activate the adaptive immune system by 1–3 days post infection, this important process is delayed in Mtb infection. Several studies have shown that Mtb-infected DCs do not migrate to the lymph node and prime T cells until 9–11 days post infection (. This delay in the dissemination of Mtb bacteria to the lymph nodes is thought to play a role in the increased susceptibility of C3H/HeJ mice to Mtb compared to C57BL/6 mice. Wolf and colleagues also showed that the migration of DCs was transient, slowing down after peaking at 21 days post infection, an interesting observation given the chronic nature of TB. Not only are DC migratory functions dysregulated, but DCs and interstitial macrophages that transport Mtb to the lymph nodes are relatively poor at stimulating T-cell responses to Mtb antigens.

Books

1. "Tuberculosis of the Skeletal System: Bones, Joints, Spine, and Bursal Sheaths" by V.K. Vohra
2. "Tuberculosis: A Comprehensive Clinical Reference" edited by Anna R. Thorner and Donald Enarson
3. "Tuberculosis and Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Infections" by David Schlossberg
4. "Clinical Tuberculosis: A Practical Handbook" by Peter F. Barnes and Charles L. Daley
5. "Tuberculosis of the Nervous System" edited by Jordan T. Bonomo and Norman Latov
6. "A Clinician's Guide to Tuberculosis" by Stephen Gillespie and Alimuddin Zumla
7. "Tuberculosis: Diagnosis and Treatment" edited by Stephen H. Gillespie and Richard D. Pearson
8. "Tuberculosis: The Essentials" by Mario C. Raviglione and Giovanni B. Migliori
9. "Tuberculosis and the Politics of Exclusion: A History of Public Health and Migration to Los Angeles" by Emily K. Abel
10. "Tuberculosis: The White Plague in the City of Angels" by Elysium Extra, Inc.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

History of (TB)

Lymph node tuberculosis (TB) is a form of tuberculosis that affects the lymphatic system, particularly the lymph nodes. This form of TB has a long history and has been recognized for centuries. Here is an overview of the history of lymph node tuberculosis:

1. Ancient recognition: TB has been a known disease since ancient times, with evidence of the illness found in ancient Egyptian mummies and descriptions of the disease in ancient Greek and Roman texts. Lymph node TB, also known as scrofula, was recognized as a distinct manifestation of TB in ancient times.
2. Middle ages: In the medieval period, scrofula was commonly known as the “King’s Evil” because it was believed that the touch of a king could cure the disease. Monarchs in England and France performed ceremonial healings on those afflicted with scrofula.
3. 19th century: During the 19th century, TB was widespread and known as “consumption” due to its wasting effect on patients. Lymph node TB was recognized as one of the disease’s various manifestations, affecting the lymph nodes, particularly in the neck.
4. Discovery of mycobacterium tuberculosis: The discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis by Robert Koch in 1882 provided a clear understanding of the bacterial cause of tuberculosis, including lymph node TB. This led to more accurate diagnosis and treatment options.

5. 20th Century: Throughout the 20th century, advancements in medical science, particularly the development of antibiotics such as streptomycin and isoniazid, helped improve the treatment and prognosis of TB, including lymph node TB.
6. Modern era: Today, lymph node TB remains a significant public health issue, particularly in regions with high TB prevalence. It is often seen in people with weakened immune systems, such as those with HIV/AIDS. Modern diagnostic tools, including imaging and molecular tests, have improved the ability to detect and treat lymph node TB.

Overall, while lymph node tuberculosis has a long history, modern medical advancements have significantly improved our understanding and treatment of the disease.

Principal and preventions of lymph noade tuberculous (TB)

Lymph node tuberculosis (TB), also known as tuberculous lymphadenitis, is a form of TB that affects the lymph nodes, particularly those in the neck (cervical lymphadenitis). The prevention and treatment of lymph node TB are similar to those for other forms of TB, but there are some specific aspects to consider. Here are the key points:

Prevention of Lymph Node TB

1. BCG vaccination
- The Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine is commonly used in high TB burden countries to provide protection against severe forms of TB, including lymph node TB.
2. Early Detection and Treatment
- Identifying and treating active TB cases early helps prevent the spread of the disease. Early detection and treatment of lymph node TB can also prevent the progression of the disease.
3. Screening High-Risk Populations
- People at higher risk for TB, such as those with close contact with TB patients, people with weakened immune systems, and those living in high-prevalence areas, should be screened regularly for TB.
4. Public Awareness and Education
- Educating the public about the symptoms of lymph node TB (e.g., painless swelling of the lymph nodes, especially in the neck) and the importance of seeking medical attention can help with early diagnosis and treatment.

Principles of Lymph Node TB Treatment

1. Combination antibiotic therapy
- The treatment for lymph node TB follows the same regimen as for other forms of TB, typically involving a combination of antibiotics such as isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide. The duration of treatment is usually 6-9 months.
2. Surgical intervention
- In some cases, surgical intervention may be necessary to drain abscesses or remove affected lymph nodes. This is usually reserved for cases where medical therapy alone is not sufficient or there are complications.
3. Adherence to treatment
- Adherence to the full course of antibiotics is crucial to prevent drug resistance and ensure successful treatment. Directly observed therapy (DOT) can be used to support adherence.
4. Monitoring and Follow-Up
- Regular follow-up visits and monitoring are necessary to assess treatment progress and detect any potential side effects of medication.
5. Management of underlying health conditions
- Patients with underlying health conditions such as HIV/AIDS should receive appropriate management and support to optimize their immune function and overall health.

Overall, lymph node TB can be effectively treated with appropriate medical care and monitoring. Early detection and adherence to treatment are key to successful outcomes and prevention of complications.

Case think about of lymph hub TB.

Patient background

- Patient: 25-year-old female
- History: No past restorative history of tuberculosis. Later travel history incorporates a visit to a high-risk range for TB.
- Symptoms: Tireless swelling in the neck, low-grade fever, night sweats, and weight loss.
- Physical Examination: Extended, non-tender cervical lymph hubs with conceivable fistula formation.

Diagnosis

1. Initial assessment
- Physical Exam: Unmistakable broadening of the cervical lymph nodes.
- Medical History: Incorporates travel to a locale with a tall rate of TB.
2. Diagnostic Tests:
- Fine-Needle Goal Biopsy: Uncovers the nearness of granulomas and acid-fast bacilli.
- Chest X-ray: To check for aspiratory involvement.
- Tuberculin Skin Test (TST): Positive result.
- Interferon-gamma discharge measure (IGRA): Positive result.
- Histopathological examination: Caseating granulomas in the lymph node.

Treatment

1. Pharmacological treatment
- Standard Antituberculosis Treatment: Ordinarily a combination of isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide, and ethambutol for the introductory stage, taken

after by isoniazid and rifampicin for the continuation phase.
- Duration: Ordinarily 6 to 9 months.

2. Surgical intervention
- Excision: Considered if there is an canker or fistula formation.

3. Monitoring and Follow-up:
- Regular Follow-up: Screen reaction to treatment and check for side effects.
- Additional Imaging: If required, to evaluate treatment progress.

Outcome
- After completion of the 6-month treatment regimen, the persistent appeared noteworthy advancement. The lymph hub swelling diminished, and other side effects such as fever and night sweats resolved.
- The persistent was exhorted to take after up with standard check-ups to screen for any signs of recurrence.

Keypoints
- Lymph hub TB is a shape of extrapulmonary TB that frequently influences the cervical lymph nodes.
- Diagnosis includes a combination of therapeutic history, physical examination, and symptomatic tests such as biopsy, imaging, and TB tests.
- Treatment comprises of antituberculosis treatment and may incorporate surgical intercession in serious cases.
- Regular follow-up is vital to guarantee effective treatment and to screen for recurrence.

Considered
It's fundamental for patients to follow entirely to the treatment regimen to anticipate the advancement of drug-resistant tuberculosis. Continuously counsel a healthcare proficient for personalized therapeutic exhortation and treatment planning.

1. Isoniazid (INH)
Tablets
- 50mg
- 100mg
- 300mg

Oral syrup
- 50mg/5mL

Injectable solution
- 100mg/mL

Latent tuberculosis infection
Treatment of inactive TB contamination enormously diminishes the hazard that TB disease will advance to acitve disease
>30 kg: 300 mg PO qDay x9 months

3-month regimen
Recommended for patients matured 12 a long time and more seasoned who are at tall chance for creating TB infection counting anybody who has had later exposur e to infectious TB, transformation from negative to positive on a test for TB contamination, or a chest X-ray showing earlier TB disease
- Persons with HIV who are something else sound and not taking antiretrovirals maymoreover utilize this regimen 900 mg PO once week by week x3 months (regulate with r

This case ponder outlines the significance of early conclusion and suitable treatment of lymph hub TB to accomplish a great result and avoid complications.

General treatment~
The standard treatment regimen for lymph hub tuberculosis is comparable to that of pneumonic tuberculosis and includes a combination of numerous antitubercular drugs to anticipate the advancement of medicate resistance and guarantee viable treatment.

First-Line drugs
1. Isoniazid (INH)
- Isoniazid is a bactericidal sedate that represses the amalgamation of mycolic corrosive in the bacterial cell divider, which is basic for the survival and development of Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

2. Rifampicin (RIF)
- Rifampicin is a bactericidal sedate that restrains bacterial RNA union by authoritative to the DNA-dependent RNA polymerase enzyme.

3. Pyrazinamide (PZA)
- Pyrazinamide is a bactericidal medicate that disturbs the layer potential and vitality generation in Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

4. Ethambutol (EMB)
- Ethambutol is a bacteriostatic medicate that hinders the blend of the bacterial cell divider, especially arabinogalactan, which is imperative for bacterial survival.

These drugs are as a rule endorsed in combination to give a synergistic impact and diminish the hazard of sedate resistance. The commonplace treatment term for lymph hub tuberculosis is between 6 to 9 months, depending on the seriousness of the contamination and the patient's reaction to therapy.

Monitoring and Side effects
- Regular observing of liver work and kidney work is critical due to potential side impacts of the medications.
- Patients ought to be checked for conceivable medicate harmfulness and antagonistic responses such as hepatotoxicity (liver harm), fringe neuropathy, and visual disturbances.
- ifapentine 900 mg once weekly)
- Administered as DOT

- Not suggested for children <2 a long time, pregnant ladies or ladies arranging to gotten to be pregnant, HIV-infected people taking antiretrovirals, and patients whose TB contamination is presumed to be the result of exposure to a person with TB disease that is resistant to 1 of the 2 drugs

5 mg/kg PO/IM qDay, not to exceed 300 mg qDay
15 mg/kg PO/IM up; not to exceed 900 mg 1-3 times/week
Used in multi-drug regimen containing rifampin (or ribabutin or rifapentin), pyrazinamide, and ethambutol
Duration of treatment dependent on regimen consisting of an initial phase of treatment and a continutation phase of treatment
Note: Daily treatment has best results for HIV positive individuals
See Also Combos
With rifampin (Rifamate)
With rifampin and pyrizinamide (Rifater)
Other Indications & Uses
Newly infected patients
Household members and close associates of people recently diagnosed wtih TB
+ve TB skin test with +ve non-progressive chest x-ray
+ve TB skin test with underlying disease or immunosuppression
+ve TB skin test, <35 years old; >35 years old weigh use against risk of hepatitis

2. Rifampicin (RIF)

Take this medication by mouth at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal as directed by your doctor, usually 1 or 2 times daily. Take this medication with a full glass of water (8 ounces/240 milliliters) unless your doctor directs you otherwise. If you need to take antacids, wait at least 1 hour after taking rifampin.

If you are unable to swallow the capsules, you may open the capsule and sprinkle the contents onto applesauce or jelly. Eat the entire mixture right away. Do not prepare a supply for future use.

If you are using the liquid form of this medication, shake the bottle well before each use. Carefully measure the dose using a special measuring device/spoon. Do not use a household spoon because you may not get the correct dose.

The dosage and length of treatment are based on your medical condition, weight, and response to treatment.

It is very important to keep using this medication (and other medications used to treat tuberculosis) exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not skip any doses.

For the best effect, use this antibiotic at evenly spaced times. To help you remember, use this medication at the same time(s) every day.

Continue to use this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may result in a return of the infection.

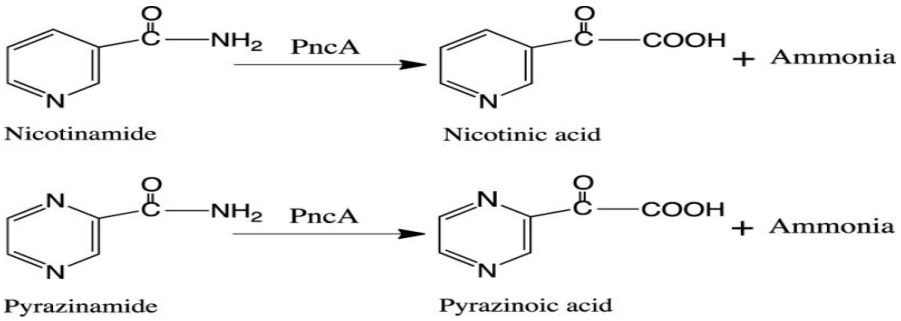
3. Pyrazinamide (PZA)

PZA is a unique anti-tuberculosis drug that plays a key role in shortening the TB therapy. PZA kills non-replicating persisters that other TB drugs fail to kill, and thus making it an essential drug for inclusion in any drug combinations for treating drug susceptible and drug-resistant TB such as MDR-TB. PZA acts differently from common antibiotics by inhibiting multiple targets such as vitality generation, trans-translation and maybe pantothenate /coenzyme A required for persister survival. Resistance to PZA is for the most part caused by transformations in the pncA quality encoding pyrazinamidase included in transformation of the prodrug PZA to the dynamic frame POA. Transformations in the medicate target RpsA are moreover found in a few PZA-resistant strains. The later finding that panD transformations are found in a few PZA-resistant strains without pncA or rpsA changes may recommend a third PZA resistance quality and a potential unused target of PZA.

4. History of (PZA)

Pyrazinamide (PZA), a nicotinamide simple (Fig. 1), was to begin with chemically synthesized in 1936[1] but its antituberculosis was not recognized till 1952.[2] Its disclosure as a TB medicate was based on a fortunate perception that nicotinamide had certain action against mycobacteria in creature models.[3] Consequent amalgamation of nicotinamide analogs and coordinate testing in the mouse demonstrate of tuberculosis (TB) contamination without in vitro testing driven to the recognizable proof of PZA as a most dynamic specialist.[4,5] Some time recently 1970s, PZA was primarily utilized as a second-line TB medicate for the treatment of medicate safe TB or in treatment of backslid TB since of the hepatic poisonous quality caused by higher PZA dose (3.0 g) and longer treatment utilized in prior clinical thinks about. In any case, generally empowered by the amazing mouse considers by McDermott and colleagues that illustrated tall sterilizing movement of PZA in combination with isoniazid (INH),[6] the British MRC conducted clinical trials in East Africa with lower PZA dosages (1.5 – 2.0 g day by day), which is not altogether hepatotoxic. PZA was found nearly as viable as rifampin (RIF) as a sterilizing medicate as judged by more visit sputum transformation at 2 months and by the backslide rates. Consequent clinical thinks about appeared that the impacts of RIF and PZA were synergistic. These considers appeared that treatment seem be abbreviated from 12 months or more to 9 months if either RIF or PZA was included to the regimen but to 6 months if both were included.[7] PZA has since been utilized as a first-line specialist for treatment of sedate helpless TB with RIF and INH and ethambutol, which is right now the best TB treatment. PZA is moreover an indispensably component of treatment regimens for MDR-TB[8] and too of any

unused regimens in conjunction with modern TB medicate candidates in clinical trials.



Figure

5. Ethambutol (EMB)

Ethambutol is utilized with other medicines to treat tuberculosis (TB). Ethambutol is an anti-microbial and works by ceasing the development of bacteria. This anti-microbial treats as it were bacterial contaminations. It will not work for viral diseases (Such as common cold, flu). Utilizing any anti-microbial when it is not required can cause it to not work for future infections.

MOA of ethambutol (EMB)

Ethambutol is one of the to begin with lines of treatment for tuberculosis (TB), along with rifampicin, isoniazid, and pyrazinamide. Ethambutol is considered a bacteriostatic sedate, interferometer with the biosynthesis of arabinogalactan in the cell divider, ending increasing bacilli. However, the fundamental atomic components stay unclear.

Researchers guess that ethambutol has synergistic impacts with isoniazid (INH) against Mycobacterium tuberculosis through a transcriptional repressor of the inhA quality, a focused on quality by INH that encodes for an enoyl-acyl carrier protein reductase which is essential for bacterial cell divider keenness. A think about demonstrates that ethambutol ties to a TetR transcriptional controller that upgrades the INH affectability of the inhA quality. As a result, this increments the slaughtering impact of INH.

Adwance effect

Loss of Visual Acuity

- Optic neuropathy/optic neuritis/retrobulbar neuritis
- Decreased visual acuity
- Scotoma
- Color blindness
- Visual imperfection (e.g., obscured vision)
- Peripheral neuropathy[9]
- Hepatotoxicity
- Numbness and shivering of limits due to fringe neuritis
- Mental perplexity, confusion, and conceivable hallucinations
- Psychosis[10]

There does not appear to be a teratogenic impact from EMB for pregnant women.[11]

Patients with lower renal work from renal tuberculosis may be more vulnerable to EMB-induced optic neuropathy; this may be due to EMB's reliance on the kidney for excretion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 63 patients were enrolled in the study of which 25 were males and 38 females. All the patients tested negative for HIV and there were no concomitant causes of immune suppression in them. The distribution of the patients on the basis of age groups are shown in [Table/Fig-1]. Nutritional status of the patients were assessed taking the Body Mass Index (BMI) into consideration. It was seen that 57.1% (36 patients) were underweight while 41.3% (26 patients) were of normal weight. Only one patient was overweight (1.6%).

[Table/Fig-1]: Distribution on the basis of age group.

Age Group (in years)	No. of Cases	Percentage of case
0 – 14	9	14.3%
15 – 24	36	57.1%
25 – 34	5	7.9%
35 - 44	9	14.3%
45 - 54	3	4.8%
55 - 64	1	1.6%
>65	0	0.0%

Cervical lymph nodes were the most commonly affected (90.5%, 57 cases). There were 5 cases of laryngeal tuberculosis (7.9%) and one case (1.6%) of tubercular otitis media with post auricular mastoid fistula [Table/Fig-2]. Most of the nodes were multiple matted ones (55.55%, 35 patients). Level II cervical nodes were

the most common region affected either in isolation or as multiple nodes. The breakup of involvement of various lymph node levels (isolated or multiple) is shown in [Table/Fig-3].

[Table/Fig-2]: Distribution on the basis of type of lesion.

Sex	Cervical tubercular adenitis		Laryngeal tuberculosis		Tubercular otitis media with mastoiditis	
	Total no. of cases	%	Total no. of cases	%	Total no. of cases	%
Male	21	36.8%	4	80%	0	0%
Female	36	63.2%	1	20%	1	100%
Total cases (63)	57	90.5%	5	7.9%	1	1.6%

[Table/Fig-3]: Distribution on the basis of level of lymph node involvement (Isolated or multiple).

Levels of Lymph Nodes Involved	No. of cases	Percentage
Level I	4	7.0%
Level II	43	75.4%
Level III	33	57.9%
Level IV	18	31.6%
Level V	5	8.8%
Level VI	0	0%
Level VII	0	0%

Most of the patients (65.1%, 41 patients) had no history of contact with known case of tuberculosis while 34.9% (22 patients) could give a definite history of contact with tuberculosis. Constitutional symptoms like evening rise of temperature, night sweat, generalized weakness and weight loss were absent in 61.9% (39) patients.

FNAC was diagnostic in 42 cases (73.7%) where epitheloid granuloma and Langhan's cells with or without necrosis was seen. The aspirate from affected lymph nodes did not reveal AFB in most of the cases. Only 23 samples (40.4%) revealed AFB after ZN staining. FNAC was non specific in 15 samples which further required incision/ excision biopsy for diagnosis.

Category I regimen was started for all the cases. At the end of treatment for 6 months 61 patients had complete recovery of their lesions and remained symptom free even three months after completion of treatment. 2 patients did not respond to Category I regimen and were considered failure.

CONCLUSION

If you suspect you have a TB lymph node, it's crucial to consult a healthcare professional immediately. They can provide accurate diagnosis and recommend appropriate treatment, which often involves a combination of antibiotics. Early detection and treatment are key to managing TB effectively

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgment of TB in lymph nodes is an important step in the diagnosis and management of tuberculosis. TB lymphadenitis occurs when the bacteria that cause tuberculosis infect the lymph nodes, leading to their enlargement and sometimes forming a mass. Diagnosis typically involves a combination of clinical evaluation, imaging studies, and laboratory tests such as TB culture or PCR testing of lymph node aspirates. Treatment usually consists of a combination of antibiotics for several months, often including drugs like isoniazid, rifampin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide. Early detection and treatment are crucial to prevent complications and spread of the disease.

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