

Bronchoscopic Study On Aetiology Of Chronic Cough In HIV-infected Adults With Negative Sputum Smears For Mycobacterium Tuberculosis At Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi

Siika, AM; Chakaya, JM; Revathi, G; Mohamed, SS; Bhatt, KM

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: To establish the aetiology of chronic cough in HIV-infected patients with negative sputum smears for Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB). **DESIGN:** A cross-sectional descriptive study. **SETTING:** Kenyatta National Hospital, a tertiary referral centre in Kenya **SUBJECTS:** Sixty five HIV-infected adults presenting with chronic cough and negative sputum smears for AFBs. **RESULTS:** Sixty-two patients were included in the final analysis. Aetiology of chronic cough was established in 42 (68%) patients. Pneumocystis jiroveci, bacterial pneumonia and Mycobacterium tuberculosis were diagnosed in 22 (35.5%), 17 (27.4%) and 14 (22.5%) patients respectively. Majority (98%) of patients with a diagnosis had multiple causes established in them. Ciprofloxacin had activity against 91% of the isolated organisms while Penicillin was active against 35% only. **CONCLUSION:** This study documents Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia as a common cause of morbidity in a subset of HIV infected patients with chronic cough and negative sputum smears for AFB in Kenya.