Global burden of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis as a sequel to pulmonary tuberculosis

David W Denning, Alex Pleuvry & Donald C Cole

Objective To estimate the global burden of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) after pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB), specifically in cases with pulmonary cavitation.

Methods PTB rates were obtained from the World Health Organization and a scoping review of the literature was conducted to identify studies on residual pulmonary cavitation after PTB and estimate the global incidence of CPA after PTB. Having established that from 21% (United States of America) to 35% (Taiwan, China) of PTB patients developed pulmonary cavities and that about 22% of these patients developed CPA, the authors applied annual attrition rates of 10%, 15% and 25% to estimate the period prevalence range for CPA over five years. Analysis was based on a deterministic model.

Findings In 2007, 7.7 million cases of PTB occurred globally, and of them, an estimated 372 000 developed CPA: from 11 400 in Europe to 145 372 in South-East Asia. The global five-year period prevalence was 1 174 000, 852 000 and 1 372 000 cases at 15%, 25% and 10% annual attrition rates, respectively. The prevalence rate ranged from < 1 case per 100 000 population in large western European countries and the United States of America to 42.9 per 100 000 in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. China and India had intermediate five-year period prevalence rates of 16.2 and 23.1 per 100 000, respectively.

Conclusion The global burden of CPA as a sequel to PTB is substantial and warrants further investigation. CPA could account for some cases of smear-negative PTB. Since CPA responds to long-term antifungal therapy, improved case detection should be urgently undertaken.

Introduction

With more than 36 million people cured of tuberculosis between 1995 and 2008 and 9 million new cases diagnosed worldwide each year, the health of those affected over the long term warrants attention. Treated pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) can lead to complications, including progressive loss of lung function, persistent pulmonary symptoms and chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA). Of the long-term sequelae of PTB, CPA is perhaps the most subtle, yet the most severe. In the 1960s the Research Committee of the British Thoracic and Tuberculosis Association estimated the prevalence of CPA in patients who had a residual cavity of at least 2.5 cm on the chest radiograph following treatment for PTB. It assessed more than 500 patients from 55 chest clinics twice – once about 12 months after the sputum became negative for acid fast bacilli, and again three years later. Remarkably, 25% of the patients had detectable Aspergillus precipitins in blood and both precipitins and radiological features of an aspergilloma were detectable in 14% at 12 months and in 22% at 3–4 years. PTB and CPA present with similar symptoms. This, combined with inadequate facilities for testing for immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies (precipitins) against A. fumigatus in many places, probably results in the underdiagnosis of CPA both at initial presentation and following treatment for PTB. For example, in early case series of people with respiratory illness and negative acid fast bacillus (AFB) sputum smears in sub-Saharan Africa, A. fumigatus was among the pathogens identified. CPA is an important differential diagnosis of what appears to be smear-negative tuberculosis.

CPA occurs in various forms: simple aspergilloma, chronic cavitary pulmonary aspergillosis and chronic fibrosing pulmonary aspergillosis, both with and without an aspergilloma. Unlike invasive aspergillosis, CPA occurs in immunocompetent patients. Morbidity is considerable and is marked by both systemic and respiratory symptoms and haemoptysis. Weight loss, profound fatigue, severe shortness of breath and life-threatening haemoptysis are common. Progressive pulmonary fibrosis and loss of lung function, also common, could partly account for the unexplained loss of lung function in these patients. Even when treated, CPA has a case fatality rate of 20–33% in the short-term and of 50% over a span of 5 years.

The country-specific PTB statistics and mortality rates published by the World Health Organization (WHO) make it possible to estimate the burden of chronic sequelae after treatment for PTB. Our objective was to use these published clinical and population data as inputs to model estimates of the likely burden of CPA related to PTB worldwide.

Methods

We developed a deterministic scenario model using Excel (Microsoft, Bellevue, United States of America). Fig. 1 shows our approach to estimating the adult burden of CPA in the largest countries of every WHO region. We started with WHO estimates of the number of new cases of PTB and of deaths from PTB and assumed that the mortality figures quoted by the WHO were for the point 12 months after the diagnosis of PTB.
We searched the literature with the following questions in mind: (i) What is the frequency of pulmonary cavitation after completion of the treatment for PTB? (ii) How common is CPA following PTB? (iii) Are there any radiological risk factors (such as cavitation) for CPA? (iv) What is the range of the 12-month survival for PTB (to estimate the numbers at risk of developing CPA development)? and (v) What is the range of the 12-month survival for CPA (to estimate attrition and convert incidence to period prevalence)? We initially adopted a systematic search strategy but quickly realized that the literature was limited and that scoping reviews for all five questions were more appropriate.10

To identify the primary literature on cavitation after PTB, we searched several electronic bibliographic databases using the search terms “tuberculosis” and all additional referenced papers were also retrieved. The term “aspergilloma” entered the medical literature in the 1940s, but the phrase “chronic pulmonary aspergillosis” was not formally used until 2003. Thus, searches with the terms “aspergillosis” and “aspergilloma” yielded very different numbers of papers. We initially identified over 400 papers and scanned their abstracts. We read over 100 papers to determine the availability of data on the treatment of pulmonary cavitation. Five sources contained relevant quantitative information on cavitation; the rest contained only qualitative data. To minimize selection bias, we established as inclusion criteria a cohort study or case series design and a minimum of 20 study subjects. We also contacted the original authors of the primary combination studies of PTB conducted by the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland to establish if the original end-of-treatment chest radiographs or readings were available for review. Unfortunately, they were not.

We identified five papers that provided data on the proportion of cases with pulmonary cavities following antituberculous therapy. The studies yielded different figures: they ranged from 21% in the United States11 to 35% in Taiwan, China12 and > 50% in South Africa in some studies,13 while in others the figures were 21–23% in South Africa13 and the United States12 and 30% in Brazil12 (Table 1). We decided on an intermediate figure of 22% and applied it to countries across the globe except for the 22 members of the European Community. For Europe we took into account our own (unpublished) observations from the United Kingdom, which showed a post-treatment cavitation rate of less than 10%, and selected an intermediate figure of 12% that will require prospective validation. We also performed sensitivity analyses using figures of 10% and 30% for countries outside the European Community.

We examined the papers found through our searches for data on the frequency of an association between PTB and either aspergilloma or chronic pulmonary aspergillosis, as well as on the radiological characteristics of these entities. We excluded case reports, qualitative studies and papers describing an association with invasive aspergillosis. Papers reporting the frequency of aspergilloma or fungal balls without serological confirmation were included but those describing cavitation without a fungal ball were included only if CPA was confirmed serologically or through direct histological exam or culture of the lesions. Finally, only two papers from the same Medical Research Council study in the United Kingdom linked radiological findings with the subsequent development of aspergilloma (and included serologic testing for Aspergillus) and, therefore, chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (Fig. 2).9,12 The figures shown in Fig. 2 were checked and confirmed by all authors. We found no papers describing the rate of CPA after PTB without reference to pulmonary cavitation or in patients without cavitation.

On a country by country basis, we multiplied the number of survivors 12 months following initiation of therapy for PTB by the designated percentage of patients with pulmonary cavities. We then estimated the number of patients with cavities who were likely to develop CPA (22% according to the studies from the United Kingdom,9,12 Fig. 2). We found little published data on CPA among patients without visible cavities on a chest radiograph following PTB, so we chose 2% as the best estimate, with upper and lower bounds of 1% and 4% for sensitivity analyses. This allowed us to estimate the number of cases with CPA 1 year following completion of treatment of PTB.

The purpose of the fourth review was to establish the range of survival rates 12 months after diagnosis of PTB. A full systematic review could have been conducted to address this question, but since the rates of survival were used to identify patients at risk for CPA for modelling purposes only, we chose to perform a scoping review to establish the survival range. We assumed that all cases of PTB had been correctly diagnosed in these studies. Five studies were identified and 12-month mortality following PTB ranged from 5% to 26%.

We also conducted a scoping review to estimate 12-month survival after the development of CPA and found only three published studies that allowed us to make such an estimate (85%) and convert annual incident cases to five-year period prevalence. Patients undergoing...
Table 1. Summary of published studies evaluating cavitation on chest radiograph or computerized tomography (CT) scan after anti-tuberculous treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Relevant measure(s)</th>
<th>Frequencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sonninenberg (2000)19</td>
<td>Prognostic cohort for TB outcomes (exclusion of MDR cases and those not cured of TB, stratified by HIV status)</td>
<td>Gold miners in South Africa</td>
<td>Chest X-ray at 3 &amp; 6 months after cure</td>
<td>Residual cavitation at cure - 69/326 (21%) [HIV strong first factor for TB recurrence among those without cavitation]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombarda (2003)17</td>
<td>Repeat measures (unclear if losses to follow-up during active disease and then after treatment conclusion)</td>
<td>Referral hospital PTB patients ? selected population</td>
<td>Repeated conventional CT scans</td>
<td>Thick-walled cavities post treatment 1/20 (5%) and thin-walled cavities post treatment 5/20 (25%); together, 30% % with cavities – observer 2, 17/33 (52%) to observer 1, 23/33 (70%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton (2008)15</td>
<td>Prognostic cohort of post-treatment (6-months), 170 exclusions from 1004 subjects primarily for missing test results</td>
<td>Multi-centre North American TB trials Consortium RCT</td>
<td>Chest X-ray, consensus criteria, reading kappa 0.54 for cavity (80% raw agreement)</td>
<td>EOT cavity, 23.3% (n = 834) in EOT chest X-ray analysis vs 19.1% among those excluded from main analysis (n = 170)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee (2008)18</td>
<td>Pre- and post-treatment repeat scans (excluded 3/83, primarily loss to follow-up, 23)</td>
<td>Taiwan, China, general hospital n = 52</td>
<td>High resolution chest CT scan</td>
<td>Post-treatment, 18/52 (35%) vs pre-treatment, 38/52 (73%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EOT, end-of-treatment; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; MDR, multi-drug resistant; PTB, pulmonary tuberculosis; RCT, randomized controlled trial; TB, tuberculosis.

Fig. 2. Relative frequency of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis after standard antituberculous treatment

544 patients with proven TB & residual cavities ≥ 2.5cm diameter

12 months later (n = 544)

Aspergillus precipitins positive
n = 134 (25%)

Aspergillus precipitins negative
n = 410 (75%)

n = 16

Deaths n = 12

Resection n = 5

Aspergillus or features consistent with aspergiloma
n = 78 + 16 = 94 (17%)

No aspergiloma
n = 56 + 394 = 450 (83%)

Deaths n = 73

Lost to follow-up n = 30

Resection n = 2

48 months later (n = 399)

Aspergillus precipitins positive
n = 142 (36%)

Aspergillus precipitins negative
n = 257 (64%)

n = 7

Aspergillus or features consistent with aspergiloma
n = 88 (22%)

No aspergiloma
n = 311 (78%)

TB, tuberculosis

* Including resection (n = 7) showing an aspergiloma.

Source: Anonymous and Research Committee of the British Tuberculosis Association.25

Aspergilloma or features consistent with aspergiloma

According to WHO, in 2007 an estimated 7.7 million cases of PTB occurred worldwide, and 5.96 million (77.1%) of them survived to at least 12 months after diagnosis. Nearly 50% of these cases occurred in China and India, whose combined population in 2005 was 2.4 billion (Table 3).26 We estimate that annually at least 372,385 patients in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia died from PTB that we did not estimate their proportion.

Long-term survival from PTB varies widely and is affected by co-infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), age, treatment adherence and the presence of multidrug-resistant or extensively drug-resistant PTB (MDR-PTB and XDR-PTB, respectively). Annual mortality following PTB has been shown to vary from < 2% in Denmark23 and 9% in Guinea-Bissau24 to 15% in Uzbekistan.24 (Table 2). Annual mortality from MDR-PTB may be no higher than mortality from PTB responsive to medication (41% over 5 years), but it is higher in HIV-positive individuals (26%) before they are treated with antiretroviral therapy.25,27 Thus, to estimate the five-year period prevalence of CPA as a complication of PTB, we applied 10%, 15% and 25% annual attrition rates to deduct deaths annually over the 5-year period.

All papers retrieved that contained quantitative data were reviewed by all authors to ensure that the samples surveyed in each paper were not highly selected and hence biased. The proportions of patients with pulmonary cavities and the annual post-treatment mortality rates were extracted independently by two authors (DWD and DCC) and discrepancies were resolved by discussion. The list of excluded papers is available from the authors on request.

Results

Figure 2. Relative frequency of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis after standard antituberculous treatment
the world develop CPA following PTB, but incidence estimates vary substantially by country and WHO region. The number of new cases of CPA associated with PTB was estimated at 11 852 048 in the European Region, 20 615 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and 12 610 in the Region of the Americas (Table 4). However, minimum estimates were 98 551 for the African Region, 83 815 for the Western Pacific Region and 145 372 for the South-East Asia Region. Individual country estimates for the 24 most populous countries are provided in Table 5.

Our best estimate of the global five-year period prevalence of CPA following PTB was 11 738 811 patients, with a range from 852 048 at 25% annual attrition to 1 372 457 at 10% annual attrition (Table 4). Sensitivity analyses using rates of cavitation after PTB of 10% and 30% and rates of CPA in people without cavities of 1% and 4% altered the estimates from a low global five-year period prevalence of 546 844 to a high of 1 786 421 when a 15% attrition rate was applied.

The five-year period prevalence of CPA indicated a predicted prevalence rate of 18 per 100 000 population (Table 3). The prevalence rate of CPA varies widely, however. Among the 23 largest countries in the world it ranges from as low as 0.4 per 100 000 in Germany to 42.9 per 100 000 in both Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. China and India have intermediate predicted prevalence rates of 16.2 and 23.1 per 100 000, respectively. In the largest developed countries, the predicted prevalence rate is invariably below 1 per 100 000.

Discussion

According to our model, which resembles many models used by WHO to estimate the burden of other diseases, around 1.2 million people in the world have CPA as a sequel to PTB. Most CPA cases occur in WHO's South-East Asia, Western Pacific and African regions, where PTB has the highest prevalence. In many series PTB is an underlying condition among CPA cases, but this varies widely. Only 17% of referred CPA patients in Manchester, England,19 had underlying PTB, compared with 93% in Seoul, Republic of Korea.4 This variation reflects differences in clinician awareness, in diagnostic approaches in patients with persistent pulmonary shadowing, and in the relative frequency of underlying pulmonary diseases in each locality. The progressive loss of pulmonary function and/or the presence of symptoms after PTB could be caused by CPA, but this possibility has never been studied. In cases in which CPA is diagnosed, symptoms such as fatigue, cough, shortness of breath, weight loss and haemoptysis are best managed with antifungal therapy. Identifying CPA early in patients with residual pulmonary shadows from PTB is only possible by means of microbiological testing (principally for Aspergillus IgG antibodies). If tests are not conducted, patients are often diagnosed as having

### Table 2. Papers (chronological) on 12-month survival among pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) patients after treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Design</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Mortality/Survival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lillebaek (1999)14</td>
<td>Retrospective prognostic cohort – not inception, as differential times since first diagnosis and clinical presentations. Four-year follow-up</td>
<td>Danish population (all 350 cases with information notified in country), mix of older Danes and immigrants across ages. PTB and EPTB</td>
<td>Overall 45/350 (12.9%) died during treatment often up to one year and overall 5/350 (14.6%). Culture positive PTB died during treatment (17/210 or 8.1%). Overall 19.7% mortality and 19/350 not available for post Rx FU. Maximum post-treatment mortality = 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connolly (1999)15</td>
<td>Prognostic cohort, two-year follow up, 78/403 (19%) left the area</td>
<td>Hlabisa health district of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa primarily rural, follow-up of 403 cured TB patients (53% HIV-infected)</td>
<td>58/403 (14%) died; mortality was four times higher among HIV-infected patients (17.8 and 4.4 deaths per 100 PYO for HIV-infected and uninfected patients, respectively; P &lt; 0.0001). Probability of survival at 24 months was estimated at 59% and 81%, respectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winquist (2000)26</td>
<td>Prognostic cohort - 206 bacteriologically verified PTB patients, 168 were followed up for 3 years, 149 discharged to ambulatory treatment</td>
<td>Initially attending hospital clinic Guinea-Bissau, then discharged to ambulatory treatment</td>
<td>At 36 months, of 130 patients discharged to follow ambulatory treatment and alive &gt;9 months after diagnosis, 23 (17.7%) died over the next 27 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox (2006)28</td>
<td>Retrospective, mixed duration and 40% previously treated, prognostic cohort, follow-up, median of 22 months from diagnosis, valid follow-up data obtained for 197 (92%) patients</td>
<td>Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan, 213 patients who were sputum-smear-positive for TB, included in drug resistance survey and diagnosed consecutively in 2001–2002 from four districts (68% of eligible)</td>
<td>Mortality - 48 (24%) of the 197 patients died at the time of follow-up average of 15% (95% confidence interval, CI: 11% to 19%) dying per year after diagnosis (6% of 73 pan-susceptible cases and 43% of 55 MDR-PTB cases also died per year). 11 (41%) of the 27 patients defined as treatment failures had died; 37/170 (22%) of patients successfully treated had died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shean (2008)29</td>
<td>Retrospective prognostic cohort study of 491 treated</td>
<td>Chest hospital patients, Western Cape, South Africa. All MDR-TB patients starting treatment during 1992–2002. 491 (66%) of 747 MDR-TB patients received treatment with two or more second-line drugs</td>
<td>Of 491 treated, 239 (49%) were cured or completed treatment; 68 (14%) died. Of 410 patients who had not transferred out or died during treatment for MDR-PTB, 281 (69%) had 2-year data available: 185 (66%) were cured or completed treatment; 32 (11%) were retreated for PTB and 64 (23%) died. Analysis of five-year outcomes of 154/233 (66%) patients who were treated in cohorts 1992–1998 and were known to be alive at the end of treatment revealed that 77 (50%) were alive, 14 (9%) had been re-treated for drug-susceptible PTB and 63 (41%) had died</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EPTB, extrapulmonary tuberculosis; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; MDR, multi-drug resistant; PYO, person–years of observation; TB, tuberculosis.
“smear-negative pulmonary tuberculosis”, “progressive upper lobe fibrosis” or “recurrent pulmonary tuberculosis”, all of which result in inappropriate therapy or none at all. In areas with a high prevalence of tuberculosis, criteria for the diagnosis of CPA and PTB are so similar that distinguishing between the two entities is not possible, without serological testing for Aspergillus precipitins, even if sputum culture is positive for A. fumigatus.  

**Accuracy of pulmonary tuberculosis case estimates**

We based our estimates of CPA prevalence following PTB on WHO tuberculosis rates. The data are robust in some countries but not others. Under-reporting is common, especially in countries such as China. Therefore, we have probably underestimated the burden of CPA. In addition, both incident cases and cure rates are changing relatively rapidly, thanks to the Stop TB Partnership. Case fatality rates dropped from 8% to 4% between 1995 and 2008. A recent estimate of mortality in patients with HIV and TB co-infection yielded a rate of 5% for countries in Africa with a low prevalence of HIV infection, but closer to 20% in those with a high prevalence, consistent with our estimates. Increased survival is likely to lead to greater numbers of people at risk of sequelae, including CPA. Estimating post-treatment survival was challenging, mostly because accurately estimating prognostic denominators was difficult, as others have found.

**CPA case ascertainment**

To estimate CPA burden we have used radiographic findings primarily. Our own data suggests that about 25% of patients with CPA have an aspergilloma. The original United Kingdom survey on PTB was conducted with chest radiographs, yet computerized tomography (CT) scanning of the thorax is much more sensitive, especially in the apex of the lungs, which is the site of most PTB and CPA. The cavitation rates of 30% and 35% after PTB are based on CT, whereas estimates based on chest radiographs are generally 21–23%. An even higher rate of residual cavitation (>50%) was demonstrated in a population with MDR-PTB. We arbitrarily applied to all of Europe the cavitation rate in the United Kingdom instead of conducting a prospective assessment, a clear study limitation. Plain chest X-rays have reasonable sensitivity (70%) for the detection of pulmonary cavities when anti-tuberculous treatment is initiated and while it is being administered, but it drops by the end of treatment (49%) and few centres undertake CT scans at that time. Although we have accounted for this variation in our upper and lower estimates, additional work is necessary to validate these frequencies in different populations, especially in North America and Europe. We recognize that a robust estimate of CPA based on rates of cavitation after PTB needs to be fully validated at the local level, especially in countries where data are old or do not exist, such as the United Kingdom.

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**Table 3. Relative frequency of pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) and chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) for countries with populations exceeding 50 million, 2005**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Populationa (2005)</th>
<th>Annual PTB cases alive at 1 year</th>
<th>Estimated annual CPA cases after PTB</th>
<th>5-year estimated CPA prevalenceb</th>
<th>5-year estimated CPA prevalence ratec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global total</td>
<td>6 512 276 000</td>
<td>5 899 619</td>
<td>372 385</td>
<td>1 173 381</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>1 312 253 000</td>
<td>1 052 925</td>
<td>67 387</td>
<td>2 124 247</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1 130 618 000</td>
<td>1 297 047</td>
<td>83 011</td>
<td>2 616 709</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>302 741 000</td>
<td>8 907</td>
<td>588</td>
<td>1 853</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>219 210 000</td>
<td>420 853</td>
<td>26 935</td>
<td>8 490 70</td>
<td>38.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>186 075 000</td>
<td>70 789</td>
<td>5 663</td>
<td>1 785 25</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>165 816 000</td>
<td>204 955</td>
<td>13 117</td>
<td>4 135 00</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>153 122 000</td>
<td>243 361</td>
<td>15 575</td>
<td>4 909 84</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>143 470 000</td>
<td>116 234</td>
<td>7 439</td>
<td>23 450</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>140 879 000</td>
<td>299 297</td>
<td>19 155</td>
<td>60 383</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>127 449 000</td>
<td>17 724</td>
<td>1 134</td>
<td>3 576</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>105 330 000</td>
<td>15 326</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>3 092</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>85 496 000</td>
<td>216 228</td>
<td>13 839</td>
<td>43 624</td>
<td>51.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>84 074 000</td>
<td>97 497</td>
<td>3 412</td>
<td>10 757</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>82 409 000</td>
<td>3 339</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3 16</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>77 154 000</td>
<td>9 266</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>1 869</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>74 661 000</td>
<td>124 710</td>
<td>7 981</td>
<td>25 160</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>71 169 000</td>
<td>11 042</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>2 228</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
<td>70 765 000</td>
<td>9 278</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>1 872</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>65 946 000</td>
<td>64 566</td>
<td>4 132</td>
<td>13 026</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>61 013 000</td>
<td>5 517</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>60 261 000</td>
<td>4 189</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>59 077 000</td>
<td>125 538</td>
<td>8 034</td>
<td>25 327</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>58 645 000</td>
<td>2 807</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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a From the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.  
b Range provided in Fig. 2.  
c Per 100000 population.
Table 4. Estimated global burden of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) after pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), by World Health Organization (WHO) region, for different rates of annual attrition (10–25%)

| Region               | CPA frequency | TB cavity No TB cavity | 10% | 15% | 25% | 10% | 15% | 25% | 10% | 15% | 25% | 10% | 15% | 25% | 10% | 15% | 25% | 10% | 15% | 25% |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Global               | 2.08 x 10^8   | 1.76 x 10^8            | 1.29 x 10^8 | 1.06 x 10^8 | 0.83 x 10^8 | 0.60 x 10^8 | 0.40 x 10^8 | 0.31 x 10^8 | 0.24 x 10^8 | 0.19 x 10^8 | 0.15 x 10^8 | 0.12 x 10^8 | 0.09 x 10^8 | 0.07 x 10^8 | 0.05 x 10^8 | 0.04 x 10^8 | 0.03 x 10^8 | 0.02 x 10^8 |
| Europe               | 2.08 x 10^8   | 1.76 x 10^8            | 1.29 x 10^8 | 1.06 x 10^8 | 0.83 x 10^8 | 0.60 x 10^8 | 0.40 x 10^8 | 0.31 x 10^8 | 0.24 x 10^8 | 0.19 x 10^8 | 0.15 x 10^8 | 0.12 x 10^8 | 0.09 x 10^8 | 0.07 x 10^8 | 0.05 x 10^8 | 0.04 x 10^8 | 0.03 x 10^8 | 0.02 x 10^8 |
| South-East Asia      |               |                        | 1.29 x 10^8 | 1.06 x 10^8 | 0.83 x 10^8 | 0.60 x 10^8 | 0.40 x 10^8 | 0.31 x 10^8 | 0.24 x 10^8 | 0.19 x 10^8 | 0.15 x 10^8 | 0.12 x 10^8 | 0.09 x 10^8 | 0.07 x 10^8 | 0.05 x 10^8 | 0.04 x 10^8 | 0.03 x 10^8 | 0.02 x 10^8 |
| Western Pacific      |               |                        | 1.29 x 10^8 | 1.06 x 10^8 | 0.83 x 10^8 | 0.60 x 10^8 | 0.40 x 10^8 | 0.31 x 10^8 | 0.24 x 10^8 | 0.19 x 10^8 | 0.15 x 10^8 | 0.12 x 10^8 | 0.09 x 10^8 | 0.07 x 10^8 | 0.05 x 10^8 | 0.04 x 10^8 | 0.03 x 10^8 | 0.02 x 10^8 |
| Americas             |               |                        | 1.29 x 10^8 | 1.06 x 10^8 | 0.83 x 10^8 | 0.60 x 10^8 | 0.40 x 10^8 | 0.31 x 10^8 | 0.24 x 10^8 | 0.19 x 10^8 | 0.15 x 10^8 | 0.12 x 10^8 | 0.09 x 10^8 | 0.07 x 10^8 | 0.05 x 10^8 | 0.04 x 10^8 | 0.03 x 10^8 | 0.02 x 10^8 |
| Asia                 |               |                        | 1.29 x 10^8 | 1.06 x 10^8 | 0.83 x 10^8 | 0.60 x 10^8 | 0.40 x 10^8 | 0.31 x 10^8 | 0.24 x 10^8 | 0.19 x 10^8 | 0.15 x 10^8 | 0.12 x 10^8 | 0.09 x 10^8 | 0.07 x 10^8 | 0.05 x 10^8 | 0.04 x 10^8 | 0.03 x 10^8 | 0.02 x 10^8 |

All patients who have had a pulmonary insult are probably at some risk of developing CPA. The relative risk of CPA following PTB in patients with smaller cavities or with none has not been estimated. A cavity is thought to be important in pathogenesis because the insult to the lung in that area probably undermines local host defences, allowing *Aspergillus* conidia to germinate. In other groups of patients who develop CPA, notably those with sarcoidosis and emphysematous bullae, pulmonary cavities predate the development of CPA. In others, including patients with survived lung cancer or who have allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, cavities are not present before the development of CPA. We have estimated that the risk of CPA among PTB patients without discernible cavities is about 2% (range: 1–4%), but this may not be an accurate estimate across all populations. Prospective studies are needed to substantiate these rates.

In addition to pulmonary cavitations on chest X-ray, with or without an aspergilloma, either the presence of hyphae in a pulmonary cavity (preferably with a positive culture) or the presence of *Aspergillus* IgG antibodies must be definitively demonstrated for the diagnosis of CPA to be made. Serologic tests for *A. fumigatus* IgG antibodies have a sensitivity of about 90% for CPA. Rare cases of CPA caused by *A. niger*, *A. nidulans* and *A. flavus* instead of the more common pathogen, *A. fumigatus*, have been documented and may be a source of false negative serology results. Thus, case detection is likely to be incomplete. Detectable *Aspergillus* desoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in respiratory samples could suggest CPA, prior to *A. fumigatus* IgG antibodies being requested.

**Accounting for CPA-related mortality**

CPA can be cured in 1% to 17% of patients who undergo surgery, usually within a year of diagnosis. Mortality from surgery is extremely low for simple aspergillosis but much higher for complex disease. Even with antifungal treatment, CPA develops gradually and leads to progressive loss of lung function. The case fatality rate after admission to hospital ranges from 10% to 30%. We have therefore introduced an annual attrition rate of 15% by default, with a range from 10% to 25%, when converting annual incident cases to five-year period prevalence. In our experience, survival is determined primarily by the combined effect of the severity of the underlying pulmonary disease and the extent and pace of lung destruction.

**Other risk factors**

Many risk factors for CPA probably exist and they include some genetic defects. Deficiency of surfactant A2 and toll-like receptor 4 has been shown to alter innate immune function. In CPA patients, cytokine production profiles typically show a Th2 cytokine profile and gamma interferon production may be absent or poor. Other risk factors such as these, whose frequency probably varies in different ethnic groups, could affect both the incidence and progression of CPA.

**Future directions**

CPA is a sequel of PTB more commonly than is generally appreciated. It can account for progressive lung destruction and the persistence of symptoms after successful anti-tuberculous treatment and can mimic smear-negative PTB. Antifungal therapy is very beneficial in CPA patients, as it reduces both morbidity and mortality. Little data exist on the development of CPA after PTB. Prospective clinical and epidemiological studies using the best diagnostic tools available are needed to ascertain its frequency in different places and among different ethnic groups. Recognition of CPA and treatment with generic itraconazole have the potential to reduce morbidity and mortality from CPA worldwide at a modest cost.

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Objective

Estimer la charge globale de l’aspergillose pulmonaire chronique (APC) après la tuberculose pulmonaire (TBP), en particulier dans les pays concernés.

Méthodes

Les taux de TBP ont été fournis par l’Organisation mondiale de la Santé, et un examen de la portée de la documentation a été réalisé afin d’identifier les études sur la cavitation pulmonaire résiduelle après la TBP et d’estimer l’incidence globale de l’APC après la TBP. Après avoir établi que 21% (États-Unis d’Amérique) à 35% (Taïwan, Chine) des patients atteints de TBP ont développé des cavités pulmonaires et qu’approximativement 22% de ces patients ont développé l’APC, les auteurs ont appliqué des taux d’attrition annuelle de 15%, 25% et 25% afin d’évaluer l’étendue de la prévalence de période de l’APC sur cinq ans. L’analyse reposait sur un modèle déterministe.

Résultats

En 2007, on a enregistré à l’échelle mondiale 7,7 millions de patients atteints de TBP et on estime que 372 000 d’entre eux ont ensuite développé l’APC de 11 400 en Europe à 145 372 en Asie du Sud-est. La prévalence de période de cinq ans globale était de 1 174 000, 852 000 et 1 372 000 cas à des taux d’attrition annuelle de 15%, 25% et 10%.

Discussion

Les auteurs ont réalisé une revue des cas de tuberculose pulmonaire et d’apprécié l’incidence de l’APC après la TBP. Ils ont estimé que la prévalence de l’APC après la TBP était de 11,4 millions de cas à l’échelle mondiale.

Conclusions

La prévalence de l’APC après la TBP est élevée à l’échelle mondiale. Il est donc nécessaire de mieux comprendre les causes de l’APC après la TBP et de développer des stratégies de prévention et de traitement.

Le dépistage et le traitement précoce de la TBP pourraient réduire la prévalence de l’APC après la TBP. Les recherches futures devraient être axées sur l’évaluation de la prévalence de l’APC après la TBP dans différentes régions du monde.


Research

Chronic aspergillosis after pulmonary tuberculosis

David W Denning
Resumen

Carga global de la aspergilosis pulmonar crónica como una secuela de la tuberculosis pulmonar

Objetivo Calcular la carga global de la aspergilosis pulmonar crónica (APC) después de la tuberculosis pulmonar (TBP), específicamente, en casos con cavitation pulmonar.

Métodos Se obtuvieron las tasas de TBP de la Organización Mundial de la Salud y se realizó una revisión de evaluación de la bibliografía con el fin de identificar los estudios sobre cavitation pulmonar residual después de la TBP y calcular la incidencia global de la APC después de la TBP. Habiendo establecido que del 21% (Estados Unidos de América) al 35% (Taiwán, China) de los pacientes con TBP desarrollaron cavidades pulmonares y que alrededor del 22% de dichos pacientes desarrollaron APC, los autores aplicaron tasas de abandono anuales del 10%, 15% y 25% para calcular el rango de prevalencia para la APC en un periodo de cinco años. Los análisis se basaron en un modelo determinista.

Hallazgos En 2007, se produjeron 7,7 millones de casos de TBP en todo el mundo, de los cuales se calcula que unos 372 000 desarrollaron APC, desde 11 400 en Europa hasta 145 372 en Asia Sudoriental. La prevalencia global en un periodo de cinco años fue de 1 174 000, 852 000 y 1 372 000 casos con tasas de abandono anuales del 15%, 25% y 10%, respectivamente. La carga global de la APC en un periodo de cinco años fue de 1 174 000, 852 000 y 1 372 000 casos con tasas de abandono anuales del 15%, 25% y 10%, respectivamente. Dado que la APC es una secuela de la TBP, se requiere un esfuerzo adicional para mejorar la detección de los casos.

Conclusion La carga global de la APC en tant que secuela de la TBP es considerable y justifica la necesidad de estudios adicionales. La APC podría ser una causa significativa de enfermedad pulmonar crónica en pacientes con historia de tuberculosis. La detección temprana y tratamiento temprano son esenciales para prevenir la progresión de la enfermedad.

Referencias


