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Title: Clinical and laboratory presentation of abdominal tuberculosis in Shillong, Meghalaya: experience from Northeast India

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Full length Article

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ABSTRACT:

Objective: Tuberculosis is an immense health problem in the developing countries. Diagnosis of abdominal tuberculosis is often difficult because of its protean manifestations. Our objective was to evaluate the various clinical and laboratory presentation of abdominal tuberculosis from a tertiary care setup.

Materials and methods: We reviewed the clinical and laboratory features of patients presenting with abdominal tuberculosis through retrospective analysis from January 2016 to December 2016 from a tertiary care hospital in Northeast India.

Results: Of the 42 adult patients with abdominal tuberculosis who were part of the study, 22 (52.4%) were males and 20 (47.6%) females. The mean age was 34.6 years. Fever (93%) was the most common presenting symptom followed by pain abdomen (74%), loss of appetite (71%), weight loss (67%) and nausea/vomiting (45%). The main organs involved were the mesenteric lymph nodes (n = 19, 45.2%), the peritoneum (n = 6, 14.3%), and gastrointestinal (n = 5, 11.9%). Pulmonary tuberculosis was apparent in 4 (9.5%) patients.

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