

# Extrapulmonary tuberculosis among elderly patients

**Authors:** M. Azaiez\*, F. Larbi Ammari, J. Chelli, S. Arfa, O. Berriche, M.H. Sfar  
Internal medicine and endocrinology department, Taher Sfar University Hospital, Mahdia -Tunisia -

## Introduction

Elderly people are more vulnerable to develop tuberculosis (TB). This infection makes a significant contribution to ill health in patients already suffering from other diseases. Atypical manifestations and extra pulmonary TB can delay the diagnosis and increase, therefore, mortality.

The aim of the study was to evaluate clinical characteristics and treatment outcomes of extrapulmonary tuberculosis among elderly.

## Methods

A retrospective study concerning elderly hospitalized for extrapulmonary tuberculosis in an internal medicine department between 2012 and 2019.

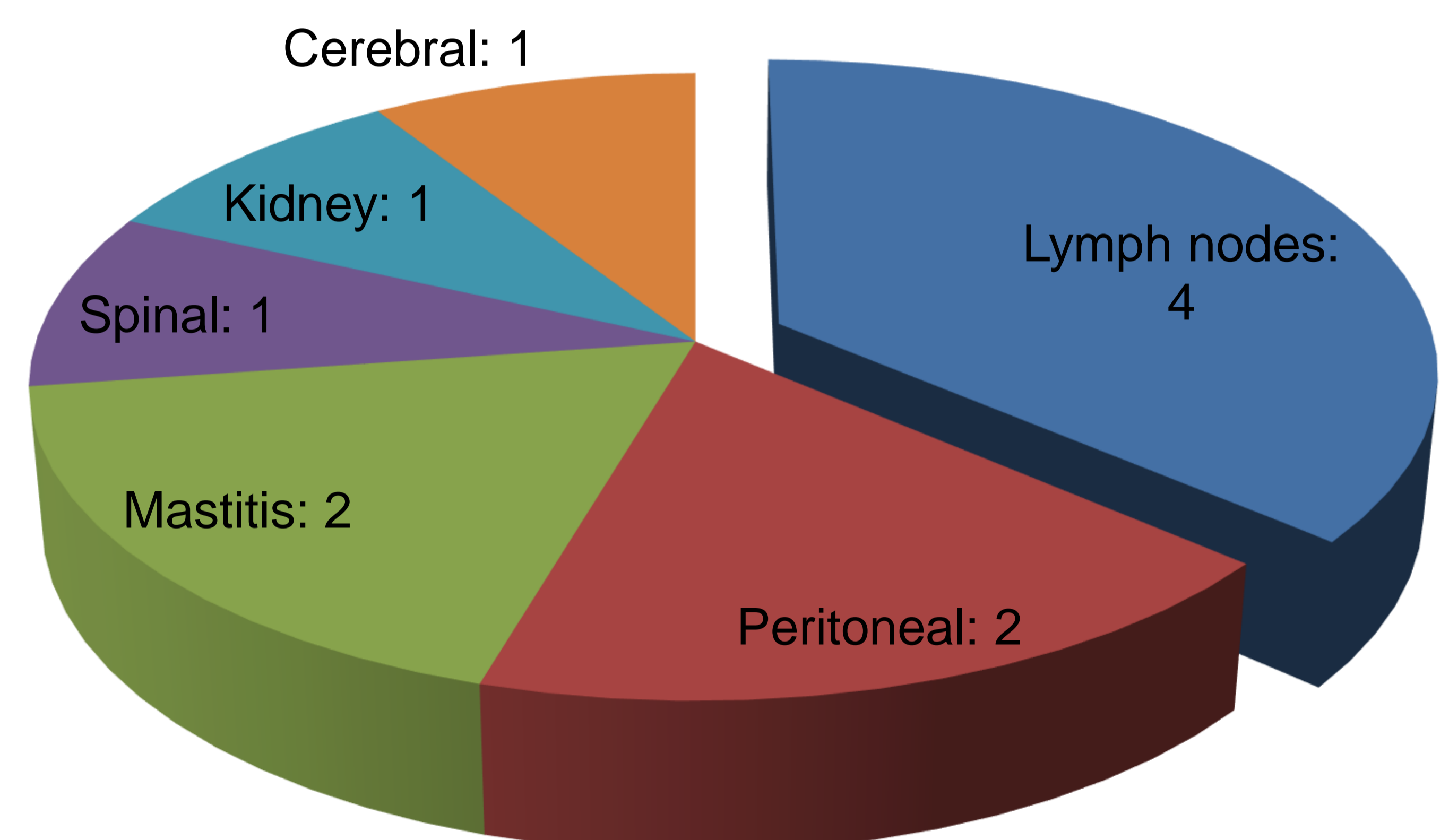
## Résultats

### Epidemiological data

- 9 cases
- Mean age: 70 years
- Female++; Sex ratio= 0.28
- Multisystemic disease with myriad presentations

**Table1: Patients' characteristics**

Main characteristics	N (cases)
Rural area	6
Raw milk consumption	3
Recent contact with tuberculosis cases	1
Personal history of tuberculosis	0
<u>Comorbidities</u>	
Diabetes	5
Chronic renal failure	2
<u>Constitutional symptoms</u>	
Asthenia	7
Weight loss	6
Night sweating	3
Fever	3



**Figure 1: Repartition of patients according to the localization of tuberculosis**

- **Lymph nodes tuberculosis +++**
- At least 2 forms were associated in 3 cases
- Tuberculin skin test reactivity positive in only 2 cases
- Biopsy and histological analysis → Diagnostic
- Drug therapy length ≈ 12 months
- 100% successful outcomes

## Discussion-Conclusion

Tuberculosis in old people is a worldwide problem. It may have different clinical presentation. Clinical characteristics of extrapulmonary tuberculosis in older adults can be unusual and may be confused with age-related illnesses . It should be considered especially in an epidemic area. Although tuberculin anergy may be found frequently in elderly patients the diagnosis relies on the same principles as in the younger patient. Unlike many other diseases seen in the elderly, extra pulmonary tuberculosis is potentially curable if treated early.

### References:

- 1- Negin J, Abimbola S, Marais BJ. Tuberculosis among older adults – time to take notice. Int J Infect Dis. 2015; 32: 135-7
- 2- Tatar D, Senol G, Alptekin S, Anar C, Aydin M. Tuberculosis in older adults. Eur Geriatr Med. 2013; 4(1):15-9.