



Factors Predicting Mortality in Pulmonary Tuberculosis

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Received 18th Apr 2022,
Accepted 26th May 2022,
Online 7th Jun 2022

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Annotation: According to official statistics, destructive pulmonary tuberculosis was diagnosed in 13.4% of newly diagnosed patients. Children and 37.3% of adolescents. Proportion of bacteria excretors was 4.6% among children and 26.9% among adolescents. This study aimed to analyse the predictors of mortality in hospitalized pulmonary TB patients with acute respiratory failure. This prospective cohort study was implemented in a tertiary hospital in Bukhara. Demographic data, acid-fast bacilli (AFB) sputum smear, radiographic conclusion, biochemical analysis of blood, and clinical outcomes from active pulmonary TB patients who had acute respiratory failure were collected. A chi-square test was run to analyse the relationship between variables.

Keywords: tuberculosis, radiographic conclusion, luminescent microscopy, diagnosis.

Introduction. According to official statistics, destructive pulmonary tuberculosis was diagnosed in 13.4% of newly diagnosed patients. Children and 37.3% of adolescents. Proportion of bacteria excretors was 4.6% among children and 26.9% among adolescents. Detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in sputum

of patients with tuberculosis of the respiratory organs is carried out by microbiological methods and takes a certain time: fluorescence microscopy - response after 24 hours, detection of MBT DNA by PCR - 24 hours, culture

using liquid media BACTEC MGIT 960 from 2 to 4 weeks Tuberculosis (TB) remains a global health problem with high morbidity and mortality rate. The high mortality rate of this disease was caused by many factors and complications such as hemoptysis, septic shock, and respiratory failure. Further methods have been combined with culture to successfully diagnose TB including, the chest X-ray and the Tuberculin skin test. Nevertheless, their efficacy was found to be relatively poor when compared with other more modern methods, which utilise molecular or immunological techniques. The diagnostic flaws of these methods are often attributed to the effect of the human error in interpretation of the results. To overcome this, several companies are developing computational algorithms and the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to better interpret chest X-ray results (discussed later). Historically, the above described direct detection methods have formed the basis of TB diagnostics. However recently, a shift has occurred towards, either molecular or immunological methods. Several studies reported the mortality rate in pulmonary TB patient who went through acute respiratory failure were as

high as 65.6–74.0%. The availability of the intensive-care unit (ICU) for TB patients is one important factor that can contribute to lower mortality rate, especially for pulmonary TB cases with acute respiratory failure, multiorgan failure, decreased consciousness, etc. In some developing countries, the availability of respiratory intensive-care unit (RICU) needed in treating pulmonary TB patients who need mechanical ventilation support was limited. The inadequate number of RICU will eventually increase the mortality rate of the patients. Understanding the independent factors related to mortality in pulmonary TB patients who had acute respiratory failure will improve management and treatment. Some studies in several countries showed that old age, positive acid-fast bacilli (AFB) smear of sputum, severity of chest radiograph, presence of pneumonia, Diabetes Mellitus (DM), low albumin level, sepsis, and multiorgan failure were the mortality predictor factors in pulmonary TB with acute respiratory failure. This study aimed to analyse factors that predict mortality in active pulmonary TB patients with respiratory failure.

Materials and methods

Population and design study: Data were collected with consent from active pulmonary TB patients (≥ 18 years old) with acute respiratory failure, who were hospitalized in the pulmonary ward (not in the ICU nor treated with mechanical ventilator). Diagnosis of active pulmonary tuberculosis was based on respiratory symptoms, chest x-ray, and AFB sputum. Respiratory failure refers to blood gas analysis with $\text{PaO}_2 \leq 60$ mmHg and/or $\text{PaCO}_2 > 45$ mmHg without supplementary oxygen or $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio < 300 mmHg with supplementary oxygen. Patients who were diagnosed with pulmonary malignancies, chronic kidney disease, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), acute heart failure, and chronic liver disease were excluded. The independent variables were age, AFB sputum smear results, thorax radiographic findings, concomitant pneumonia, sepsis, hypoalbuminemia, and DM. The dependent variable was mortality rate. Follow-up was carried out until two weeks after participating patients were discharged from the hospital. Demographic data and patients' characteristics were descriptively presented in frequency and percentage for categorical data. Average standard intersection was used for continuous data. Mortality predictor factors were analyzed using Chi-square continue with multivariate logistic regression to obtain the mortality predictor factor model. The result was presented in Odds Ratio (OR) with a significant p-value of < 0.05 and a confidence interval (CI) of 95%.

Results. During the 3 months observation period, 233 tuberculosis patients were hospitalized in the pulmonary ward, of which 35 had acute respiratory failure. Of the 34 patients, 28 (76.1%) were male and 8 (21.9%) were female. Mean age was 52 years old. Mean hospitalization duration was 10.0 ± 5.83 days, 16 (45.7%) patients had DM as a comorbid disease. 23 (65.7%) patients had concomitant pneumonia which was categorized as community-acquired pneumonia (CAP). From physical examination, Body Mass Index (BMI) median was 20.76 kg/m². Based on the laboratory result, mean albumin level was 3.07 ± 0.56 g/dL. Median of procalcitonin level was 0.73 ng/mL. 19 (54.3%) patients had a $\text{PaO}_2/\text{FiO}_2$ ratio range between 200–300 mmHg. Microbiology examination showed 25 (71.4%) patients had positive AFB smear of sputum and 10 (28.6%) patients had negative results. Radiology examination demonstrated fibro infiltrate with consolidation (65.7%) and cavity lesion (65.7%) as the common findings in the study subjects. The median chest X-Ray score in this study was 6, while the majority of the patients (60%) had a lower median total score (≤ 6). The median of the Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score was 3. The demographic data, radiology, microbiology, and laboratory results are presented in.

Among 35 patients with active pulmonary TB and acute respiratory failure, a total of 15 (42.9%) patients died and 20 (57.1%) patients survived. Mortality predictor factor analysis was done in two steps. The first step was bivariate analysis. Because the data is categorical, Chi-square test was used. Then predictor factors with p-value < 0.25 were evaluated using multivariate logistic regression

analysis. Variables with pvalue <0.05 is statistically significant. Odds ratio (OR) and their 95% CIs indicated factors that predicted mortality. Showed the result of Chi-square test. Variables of the nonsurvivor group were positive AFB smear result, pneumonia classification, hypoalbuminemia (albumin level <3 g/dL), SOFA score, and presence of DM. Result of multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that hypoalbuminemia (OR, 12.254; 95% CI, 1.924–78.062) and DM (OR, of 8.448; 95% CI, 1.350–52.872) were significantly related to mortality. In Bukhara showed that in hypoalbuminemia, the survival tends to decrease between 5–15 days with 0% survival rate. A higher mortality rate was seen in hypoalbuminemia than non-hypoalbuminemia patients ($p = 0.001$, log-rank test). A similar outcome was seen in the analysis of the presence of DM, the survival decreased between 5–15 days with 30% survival rate. A higher mortality rate was seen in patients with DM than non-DM patients ($p = 0.015$, logrank test).

Literature review

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