

Respiratory infections

Diagnosis and treatment of lung mycobacterioses in Slovakia

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Nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) are mycobacterial species other than those belonging to the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex* and do not cause lepra. NTM are generally free-living organisms that are ubiquitous in the environment. There have been more than 140 NTM species identified to this days. They can cause a wide range of mycobacterial infections, from which pulmonary are most frequent (65 - 90%).

There is growing evidence that incidence of NTM lung diseases and associated hospitalisations is on the rise, mainly in region with a low prevalence of TB.

Crucial problem for clinicians remains in evaluation of clinical significance of mycobacterial agents in relation to the disease, especially in assessing the colonization of the respiratory tract in patients with residual lesions after tuberculosis or bronchiectasis

Mycobacteriosis therapy compared with the treatment of tuberculosis has many common features, but also many differences, despite the fact that clinical and radiographic picture is nearly similar. In addition to antituberculotics more frequently are used antibiotics. In contrast to tuberculosis standard therapy does not exist and the treatment regimen should be chosen for each patient individually.

The most common mycobacteria causing lung disease in Slovakia are *Mycobacterium avium* and *M. abscessus*

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