

Tuberculosis and lung cancer

DOI: 10.4103/2278-330X.130471

Dear Editor,

The recent report on “tuberculosis and lung cancer” is very interesting.^[1] Bhatt *et al.*,^[1] concluded that “patients with lung cancer are often misdiagnosed as pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) leading to delay in the correct diagnosis as well as exposure to inappropriate medication.” In fact, the problem of missed diagnosis of lung cancer as TB can be a serious problem and can be commonly seen in clinical practice in endemic area of TB. According to the study by Singh *et al.*,^[2] several lung cancer patients got anti-TB drug before final diagnosis of lung cancers. Nevertheless, it should also be noted that the concomitant occurrence between TB lung and lung cancer

is also possible.^[3] To carefully investigate on the possible concurrent disorders is also very important in clinical practice.

Somsri Wiwanitkit, Viroj Wiwanitkit'

Wiwanitkit House, Bang Khae, Bangkok, Thailand, 'Hainan Medical University, Hainan, China

Correspondence to: Dr. Somsri Wiwanitkit,

E-mail: somsriwiwan@hotmail.com

References

1. Bhatt M, Kant S, Bhaskar R. Pulmonary tuberculosis as differential diagnosis of lung cancer. *South Asian J Cancer* 2012;1:36-42.
2. Singh VK, Chandra S, Kumar S, Pangtey G, Mohan A, Guleria R. A common medical error: Lung cancer misdiagnosed as sputum negative tuberculosis. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev* 2009;10:335-8.
3. Sahoo R, Vishak A, Kasturi DP, Lobo FD, Kini H. Second primary lung cancer with tuberculosis. *Indian J Chest Dis Allied Sci* 2006;48:63-6.