

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS AND CHEST X-RAY FINDINGS IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED PATIENTS WITH SMEAR-POSITIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN CONDITIONS OF EPIDEMIC

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Summary

The clinical symptoms and chest X-ray findings in 154 patients with smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis were studied in relation with the type of disease detection in Zhitomir city in 2005. In most of the patients 130 (81,3 %) the disease was detected using smear microscopy after their referral with the symptoms of tuberculosis. In rest of the patients the diagnosis was established during prophylaxis fluorography. The major symptoms in patients with smear-positive tuberculosis were cough (96,8 %) and loss of weight (81,3 %). Patients with cough sought the medical care only in case of fever or loss of weight by more than 10 kg. In the most cases there was a delay of tuberculosis diagnosis: the patients had the disease symptoms for more than 2 months. The symptoms of tuberculosis didn't correlate with the extent of lung lesions. Patients who had only cough without fever or loss of weight could have extended pulmonary lesions with several caverns.