

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS, CHEST X-RAY FINDINGS AND RESULTS OF SMEAR EXAMINATION IN PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED SMEAR-POSITIVE PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN RELATION TO DURATION OF COUGH

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Summary

The clinical symptoms, chest X-ray findings and results of smear examination were studied in 154 patients with smear-positive pulmonary tuberculosis in relation to duration of cough: more than 2, 3, 4 weeks and more than 2 months. The high rate (73,1-80,0 %) of 2-3 positive smears was revealed without any association with cough duration. The rate of fever was not increased in patients with prolonged duration of cough (from 1 month to 1 year) compared to patients, coughing more than 2 weeks. Along with an increase of duration of cough the rate of body mass loss, anemia, night sweating and weakness increased which correlated with an extended of pulmonary damage. The significant difference was revealed in severity of pulmonary lesions in patients with 2 weeks cough compared to patients with 3 week cough. There was no significant deference in pulmonary lesions between the patients with duration of cough for 3, 4 week and 2 months.