



## EDITORIAL

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### INCREASING IMPORTANCE OF NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA

The prevalence of Nontuberculous Mycobacteria (NTM) lung disease is increasing worldwide. These affect both immunosuppressed and immunocompetent individuals. The most notable ones are *Mycobacterium intracellulare*, *Mycobacterium avium complex*, and *Mycobacterium abscessus*.

Diagnosis of NMT as a cause of pulmonary disease cannot be based on isolation alone, rather by correlation with radiological lung changes. Treatment decisions remain

difficult since these bacteria are ubiquitous. Treatment of NTM remains a challenge but multiple drugs are required including, Macrolides, Ethambutol, Rifamycin and Aminoglycosides. Clear guidelines on drug treatment are still lacking.

As we continue with advancement in the treatment of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, we also need research in the diagnosis and treatment of NTM.



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