

General pathology of
TUBERCULOSIS

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Tuberculosis

Subject outlines

- Definition
- Epidemiology
- Etiology
- Tissue reaction against TB infection
- Spread of TB infection
- General complications of TB infection
- Primary tuberculosis
- Secondary tuberculosis
- Diagnosis of tuberculosis

Tuberculosis

Definition

Tuberculosis (TB) is a chronic infectious granulomatous disease caused by tubercle bacilli.

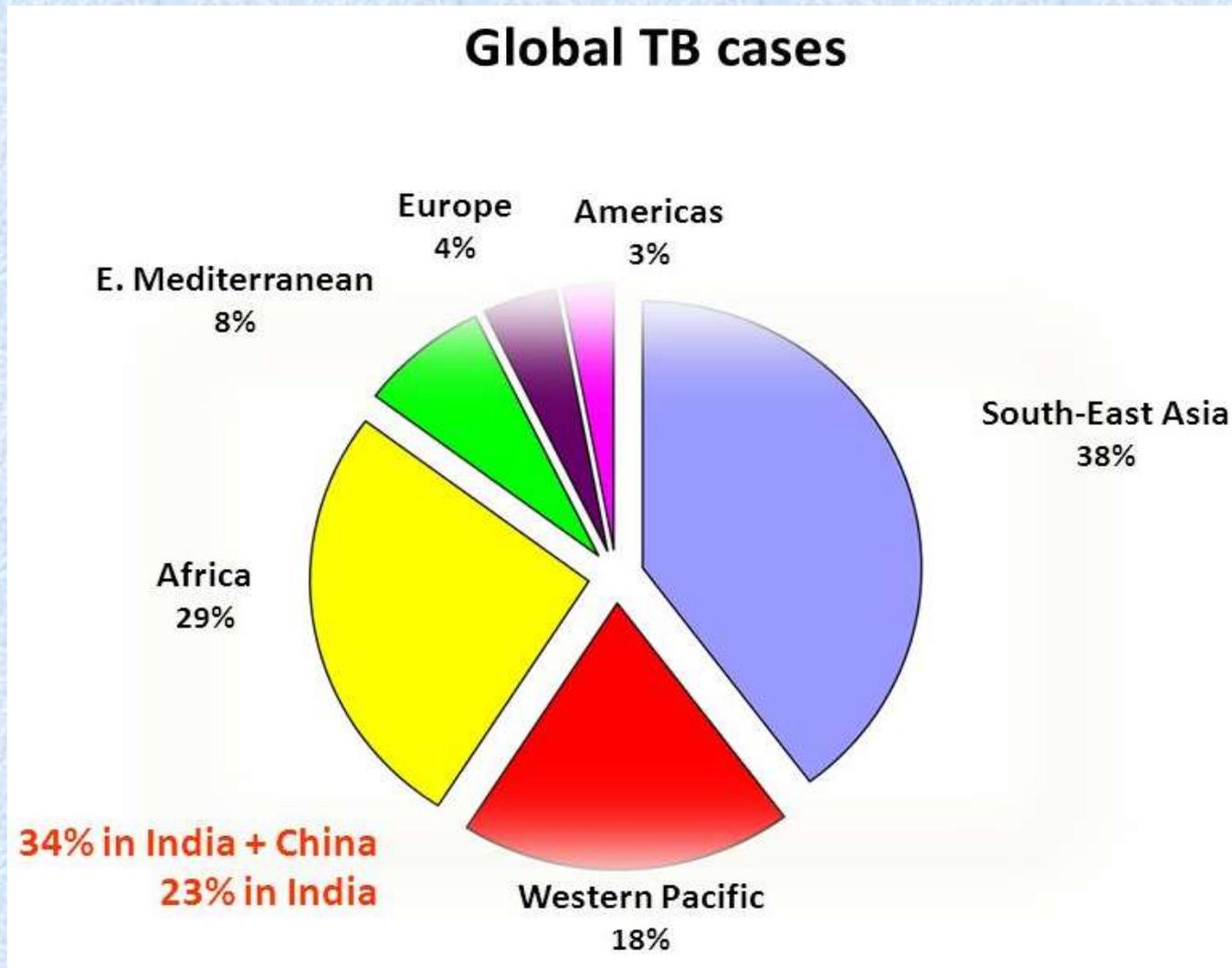
Tuberculosis

□ Epidemiology:

- It is the most common granulomatous disease worldwide.
- An important cause of death through the world.
- More common in developing countries.
- A common and endemic in Egypt; detected in Egyptian mummies.

Tuberculosis

□ Epidemiology:



Tuberculosis

□ Etiology:

➤ Predisposing factors

- Malnutrition
- Over-crowding
- Chronic diseases as diabetes mellitus and renal failure
- Chronic lung diseases as pneumoconiosis
- Immunosuppression as AIDS

Tuberculosis

□ Etiology:

➤ Causative organism:

Called **mycobacterium tubercle bacilli**

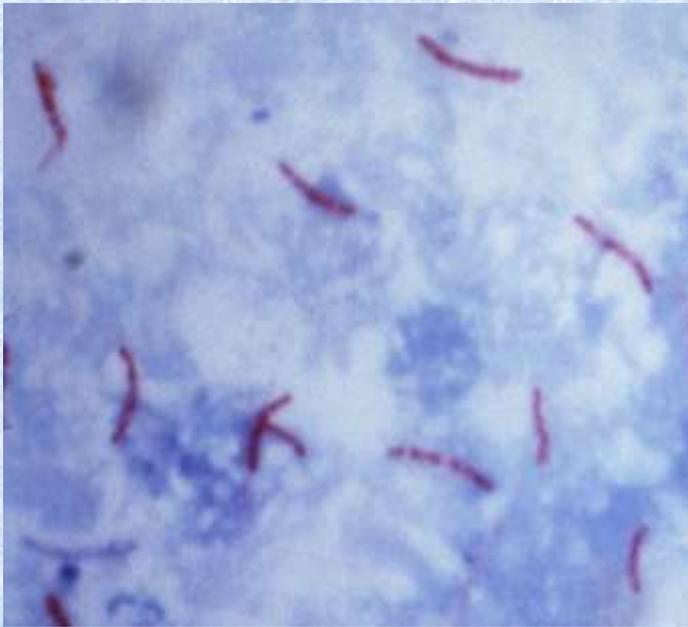
- Rod shaped organism
- Gram-positive bacilli
- Identified by Ziehl-Nelsen stain
- Two strains of the bacilli:
 1. **Human strain:** infection is acquired by inhalation
 2. **Bovine strain:** infection is acquired by ingestion

Tuberculosis

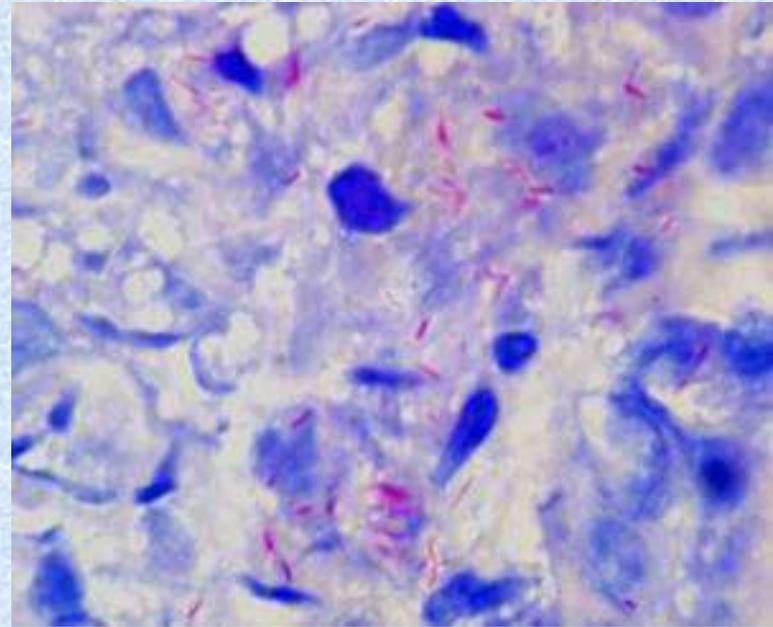
□ Etiology:

➤ Causative organism:

Called **mycobacterium tubercle bacilli**



Bacilli in culture



Intracellular bacilli

Tuberculosis

□ Etiology:

➤ *Pathogenicity of mycobacterium bacilli.*

- TB bacilli are non motile
- TB bacilli are obligatory intracellular organism.
- TB bacilli don't liberate exotoxin or endotoxin.

Tuberculosis

□ Etiology:

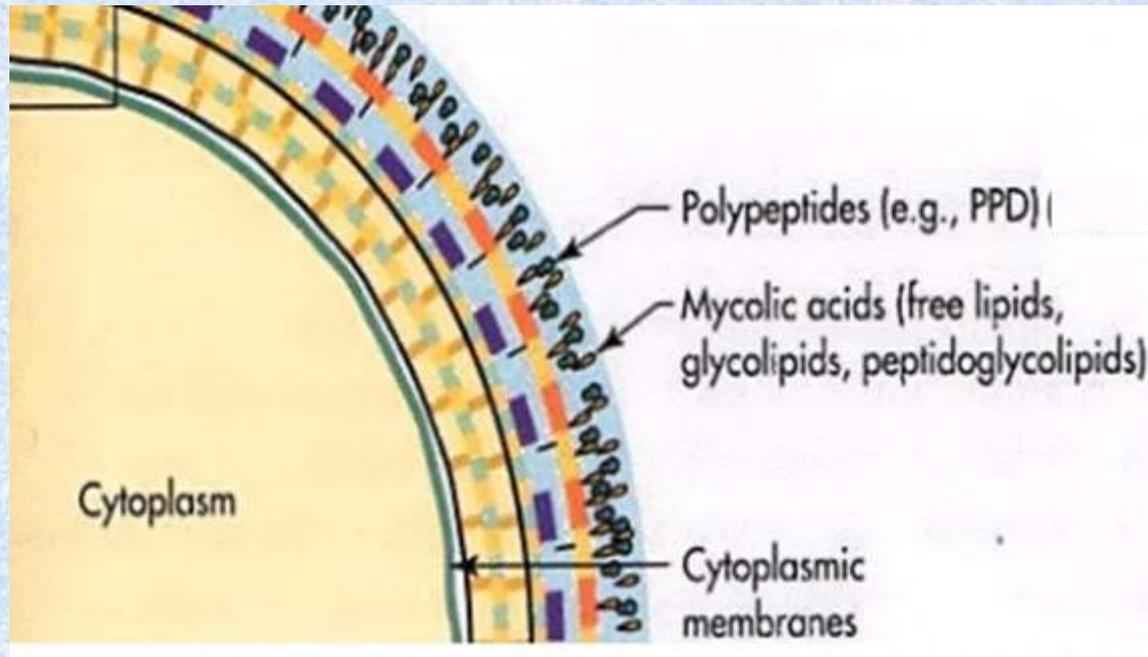
➤ Pathogenicity of mycobacterium bacilli.

- TB bacilli are non motile
- TB bacilli are obligatory intracellular organism.
- TB bacilli don't liberate exotoxin or endotoxin.
- Pathological effects of TB bacilli **depend on bacterial wall structure that induce immunological tissue reaction.**

Tuberculosis

□ Etiology:

➤ *Pathogenicity of mycobacterium bacilli.*



- A lipid capsule protect organism from digestion
- A protein layer (tuberculo-protein): highly antigenic (induces type IV hypersensitivity reaction that result in tissue damage)

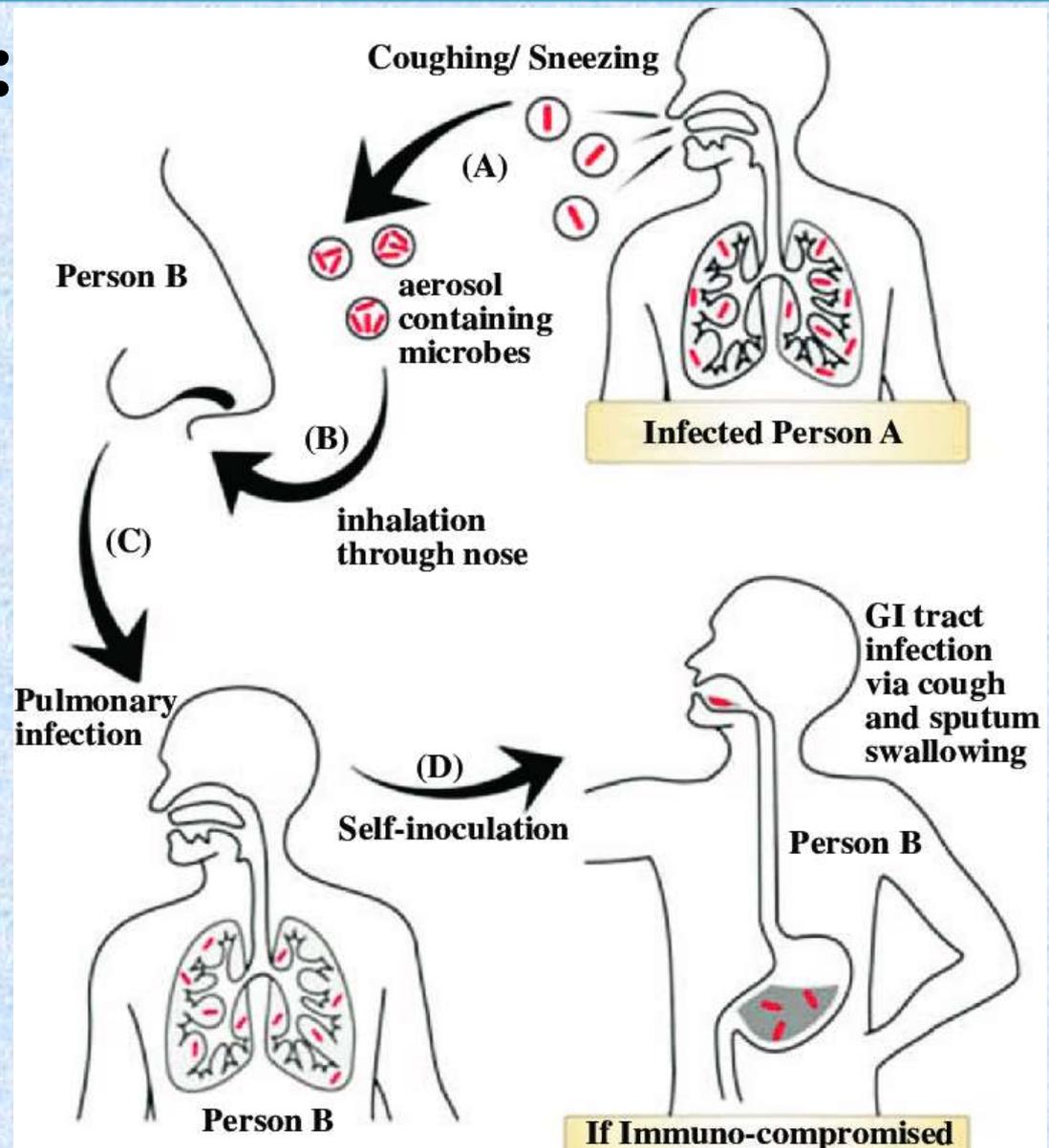
Tuberculosis

□ Mode of infection:

- Inhalation of infected droplets  Pulmonary or tonsillar TB (commonly by human strain).
- Ingestion of infected milk or swallowing of infected sputum  Intestinal or tonsillar TB (common by bovine strain).
- Inoculation in a skin wound  TB of skin

Tuberculosis

☐ Mode of infection:



Tuberculosis

❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:

Proliferative reaction

- Mainly cellular reaction
- Occurs mainly in solid organs

Granuloma formation

Exudative reaction

- Mainly fluid excaudate
- Occurs mainly in serous sacs

Tuberculosis

❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:

❑ Proliferative tissue reaction (**Tubercle**):

➤ Mode of formation:

- Mycobacteria attract neutrophils that fail to kill the organism.
- Macrophages engulf and destroy organism with liberation of tuberculo proteins
- Tuberculo proteins attract more macrophages that attract and activate T lymphocytes.

Tuberculosis

❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:

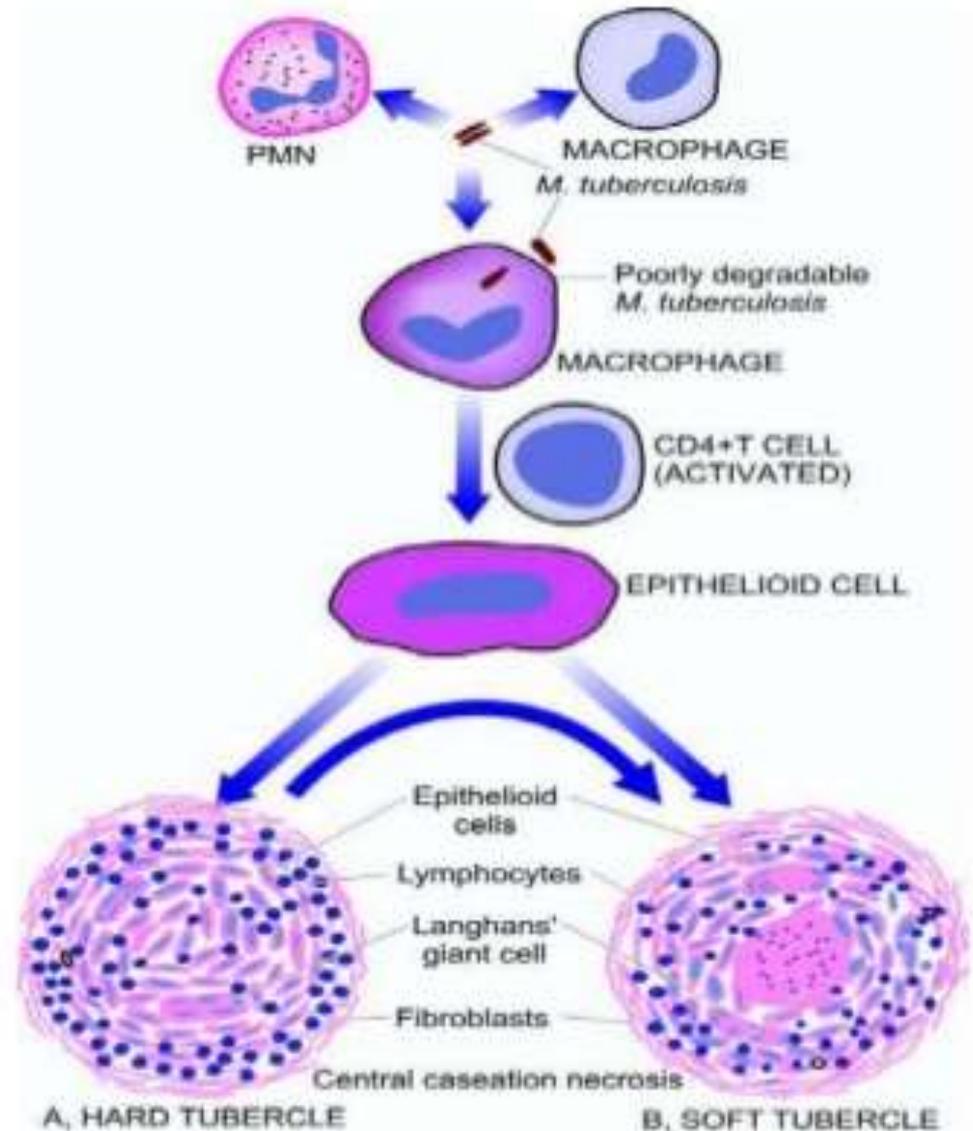
❑ Proliferative tissue reaction (**Tubercle**):

➤ Mode of formation:

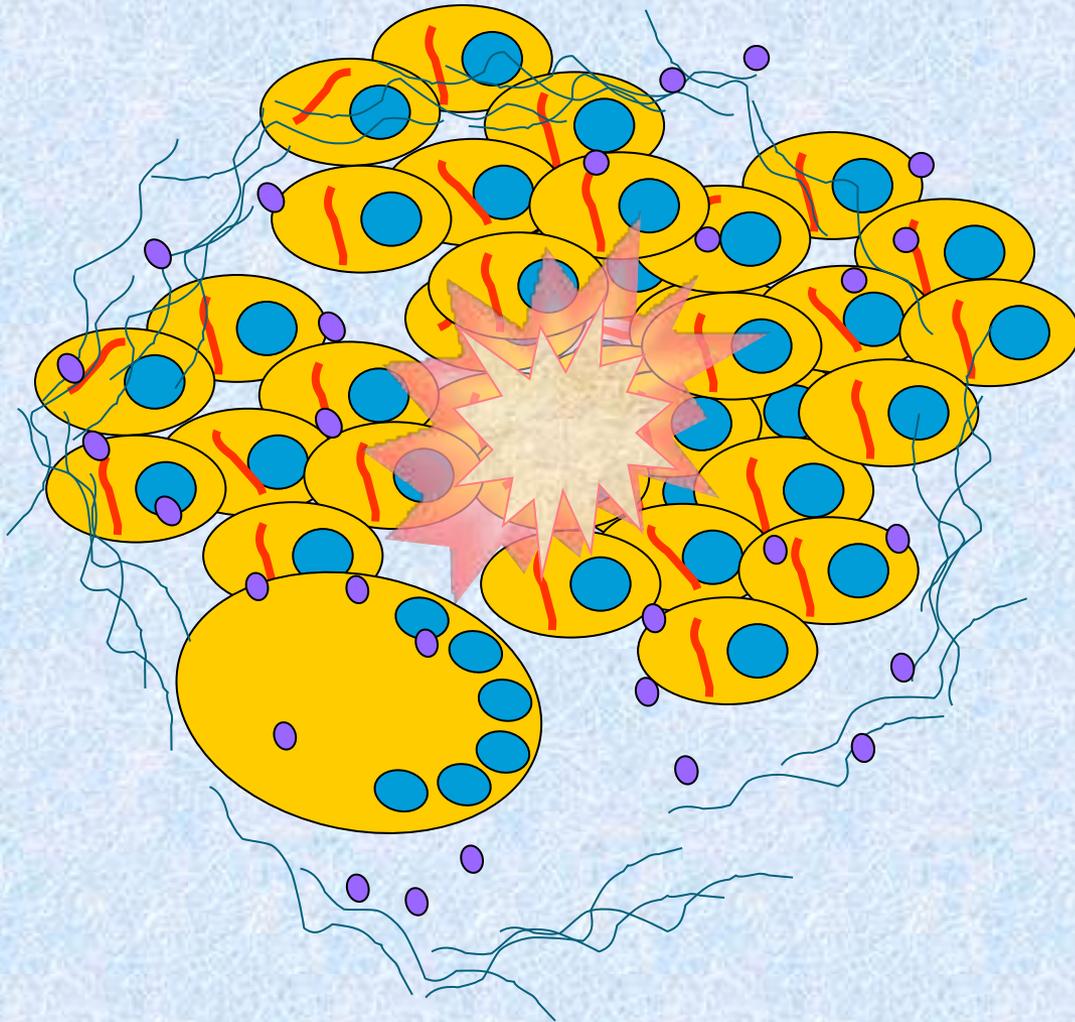
- Macrophages modify to epithelioid cells that are larger in size and have higher phagocytic activity.
- Epithelioid cells fuse to form Langhan`s giant cells.
- Macrophages presents tuberculoprotein to T cells that get sensitized and accumulate around epithelioid cells (Type IV hypersensitivity reaction).
- Type IV reaction induce central necrosis (caseation necrosis)

Tuberculosis

EVOLUTION OF TUBERCLE.



Tuberculosis



Tuberculosis

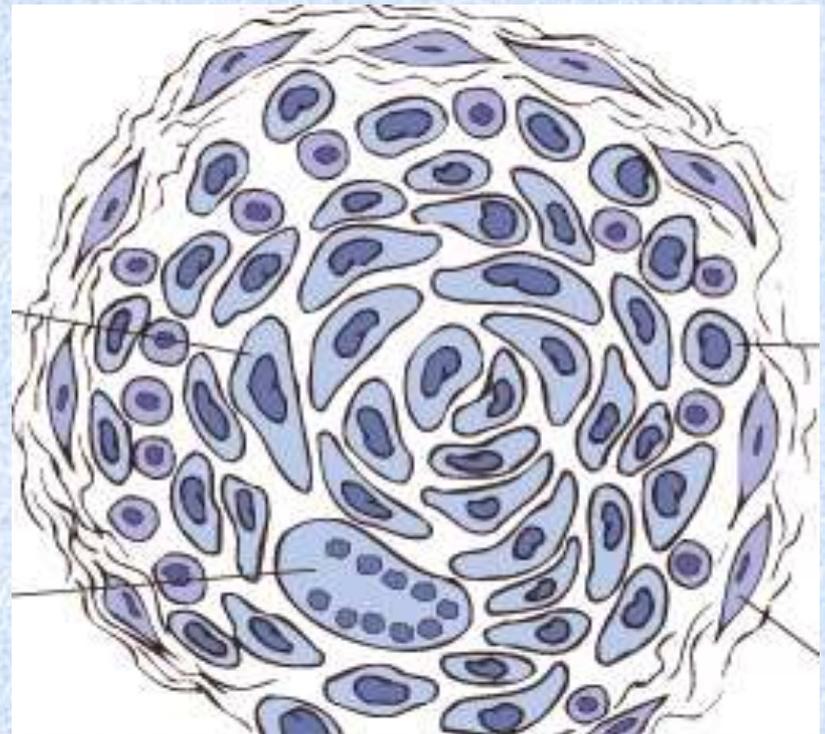
- ❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:
 - ❑ Proliferative tissue reaction (**Tubercle**):

- Grossly

- Small microscopic size (1-2mm).
- If caseation occurred → large pale yellow nodule

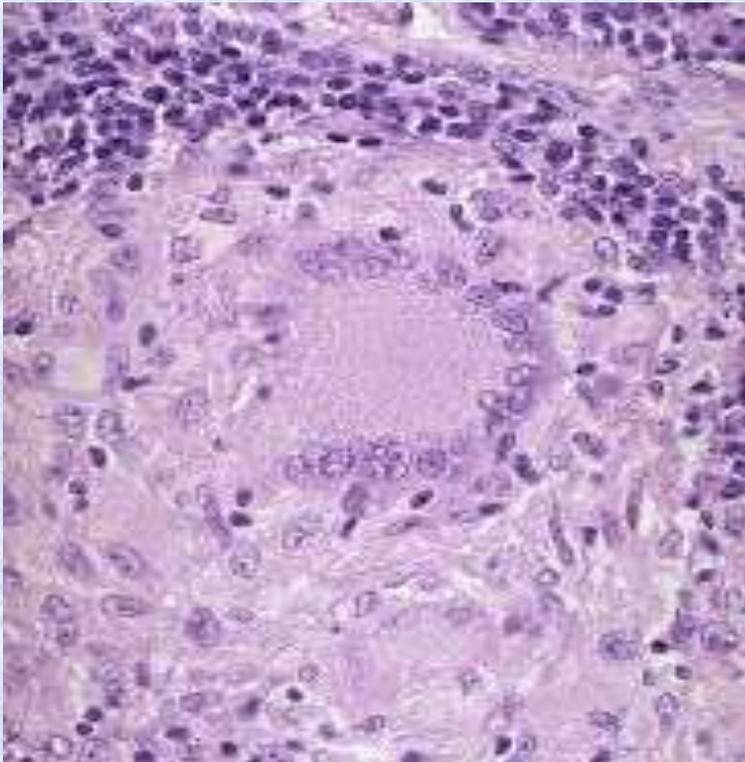
- Microscopic

1. Epithelioid cells
2. Langhan`s giant cells
3. Lymphocytes

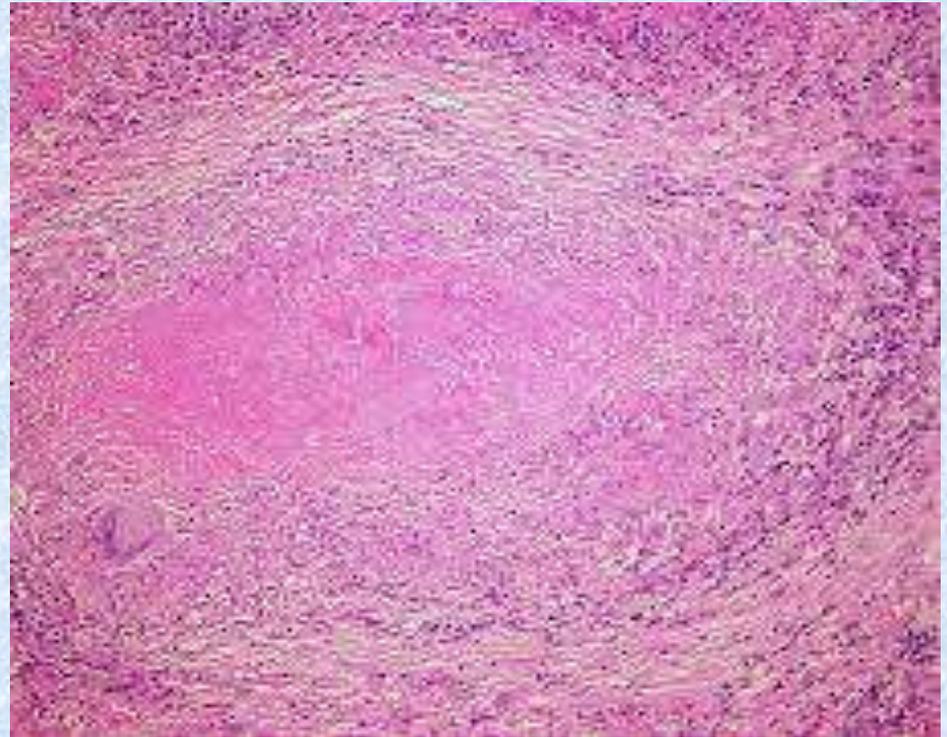


Tuberculosis

- ❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:
 - ❑ Proliferative tissue reaction (**Tubercle**):
 - Microscopic:



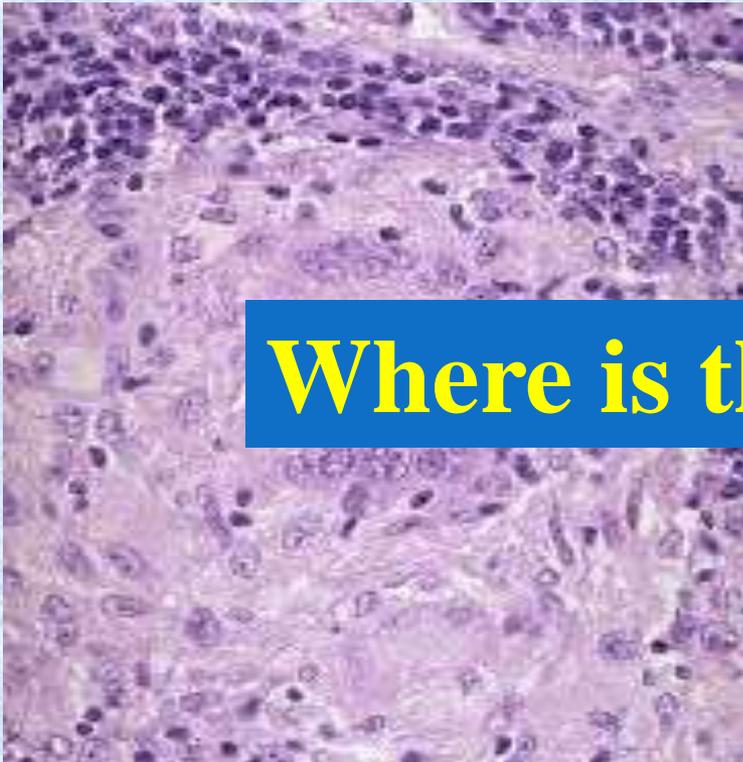
Early granuloma



Caseating granuloma

Tuberculosis

- ❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:
 - ❑ Proliferative tissue reaction (**Tubercle**):
 - Microscopic:



Early granuloma



Caseating granuloma

Where is the organism??

Tuberculosis

❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:

❑ Proliferative tissue reaction (**Tubercle**):

➤ Fate of the tubercle:

1. Good host immunity:

- Small tubercles: heals by fibrosis ± calcification
- Large caseous lesions: surrounded by fibrous capsule with risk of future reactivation with lowered immunity

2. Low host immunity:

- Direct spread to adjacent tissue.
- Distant spread to other organs.

Tuberculosis

❑ Tissue reaction against TB infection:

❑ Exudative tissue reaction:

- Occurs in serous sacs
- More common in secondary TB in sensitized patients (have sensitized T cells).
- Usually due to exposure to a large number of TB bacilli
- Characterized by more fluid exudate rich in fibrinogen

Tuberculosis

□ Spread of TB infection:

1. Local spread to adjacent tissue: TB bacilli are non-motile but carried by macrophages to surrounding tissues

2. Spread through natural passages:

- Trans-bronchial: from one lung to the other
- Sputum of pulmonary TB leads to intestinal TB

3. Lymphatic spread: TB bacilli are carried to regional LNs by lymphatics

4. Blood spread:

- Occurs if immunity is low and leads to isolated organ TB or miliary TB

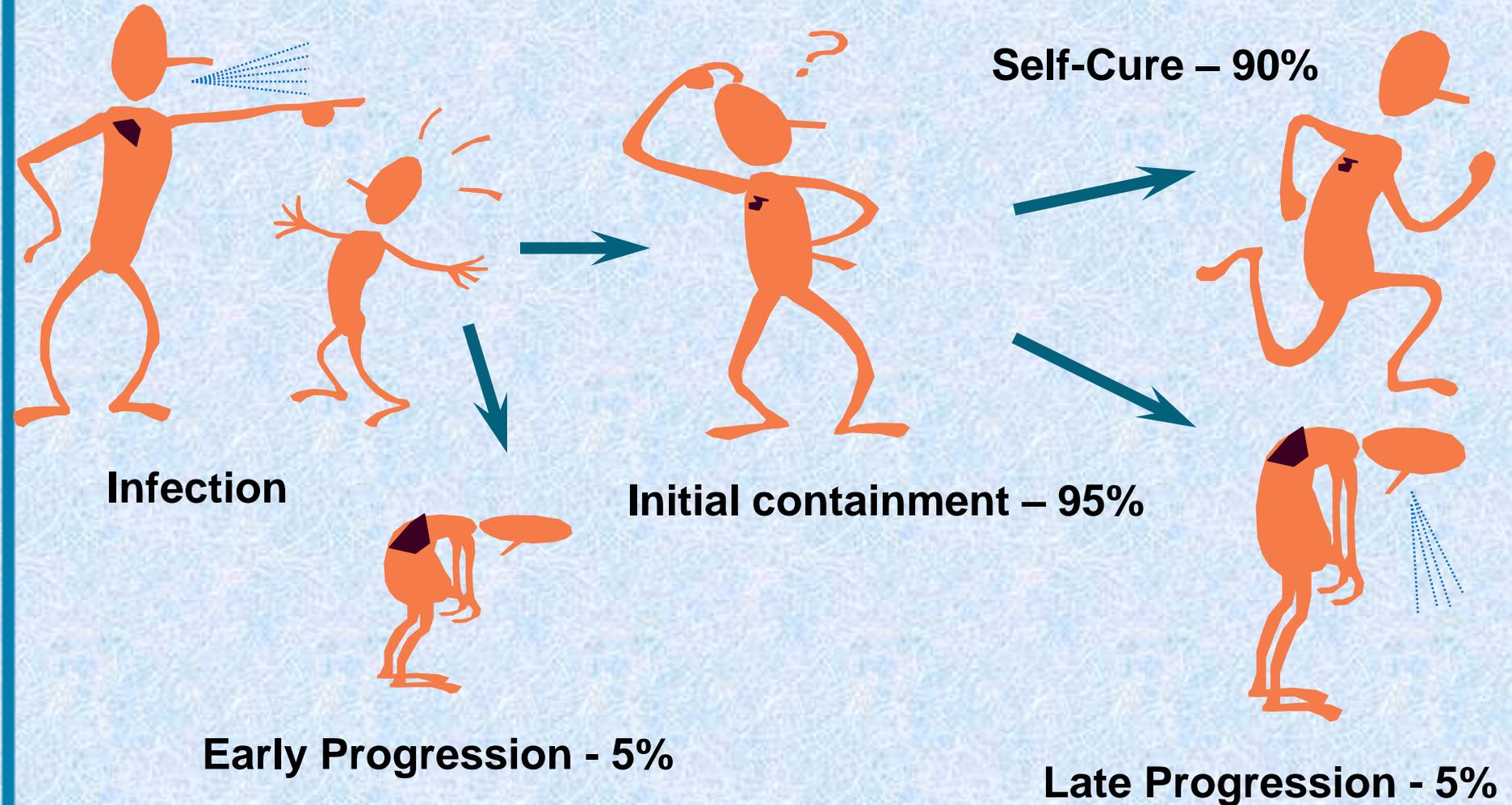
Tuberculosis

❑ Factors affecting course of TB infection:

- 1. Age:** children and elderly people are susceptible to infection
- 2. Dose of infection:** large dose of TB bacilli → disease.
- 3. Previous exposure to TB bacilli:**
 - Usually induces immunity against TB bacilli (protective)
 - Previous exposure to T.B. bacilli may come from:
 - BCG vaccination
 - Previous infection
- 4. Immune status of the patient:** Patients with immunodeficiency (AIDS patients) are more liable to suffer T.B.
- 5. Presence of other diseases:** as DM, chronic lung diseases, renal failure) ↑ risk of TB infection.

Tuberculosis

❑ Factors affecting course of TB infection:



Tuberculosis

□ General complications of TB infection:

- 1. Haemorrhage**
- 2. Reactivation**
- 3. Spread**
- 4. Organ destruction and extensive fibrosis.**
- 5. Secondary amyloidosis**

Tuberculosis

□ Types of TB:

Primary TB

Secondary TB

Tuberculosis

□ Types of TB:

Primary TB

- TB infection for first time
- Exogenous infection
- More common in young age (childhood type)
- Tissue reaction is slow
- Tissue damage is minimal
- Lymph nodal reaction: prominent
- Primary sites: lung, intestine, skin and tonsils
- Tissue reaction depends on innate immunity

Secondary TB

- Re-infection
- Exogenous or endogenous
- More common in adult life (adult type)
- Tissue reaction is rapid
- Tissue damage is prominent
- Lymph nodal reaction: mild
- Affect any organ
- Tissue reaction depends on hypersensitivity reaction

Primary TB

Tuberculosis

□ Primary TB:

❖ General features:

- Infection by TB bacilli for the first time.
- Common in young age
- Exogenous source of infection
- Most cases are asymptomatic (flu-like illness) and $\pm 5\%$ develop a significant disease

❖ Primary sites of TB

1. Lung

2. Intestine

3. Tonsils

4. Skin

Primary Tuberculosis

❖ Main pathological features (**the primary complex**):

1. TB lesion at the primary site of infection: epithelioid cell granuloma with or without caseation (**Describe !**)
2. TB lymphangitis
3. TB lymphadenitis (**usually the prominent lesion**)

❖ According to primary sites of TB; the known primary complexes are:

- Primary pulmonary complex  for pulmonary TB
- Primary intestinal complex  for intestinal TB
- Primary cervical complex  for tonsillar TB
- Primary cutaneous complex (**rare**)  for skin TB

Primary Tuberculosis

A. Primary pulmonary TB:

❖ Etiology:

- Inhalation of TB bacilli; usually human strain

❖ Pathology (**primary pulmonary complex**):

Ghon`s focus

TB
lymphangitis

Prominent
Hilar and
mediastinal TB
lymphadenitis

Primary Tuberculosis

A. Primary pulmonary TB:

❖ Etiology:

- Inhalation of TB bacilli; us

❖ Pathology (**primary pulmo**)

Gross: small (few mm), sub-pleural; upper zone of lower lobes of lower zones of upper lobe

MP: Epithelioid cell granuloma

Ghon`s focus

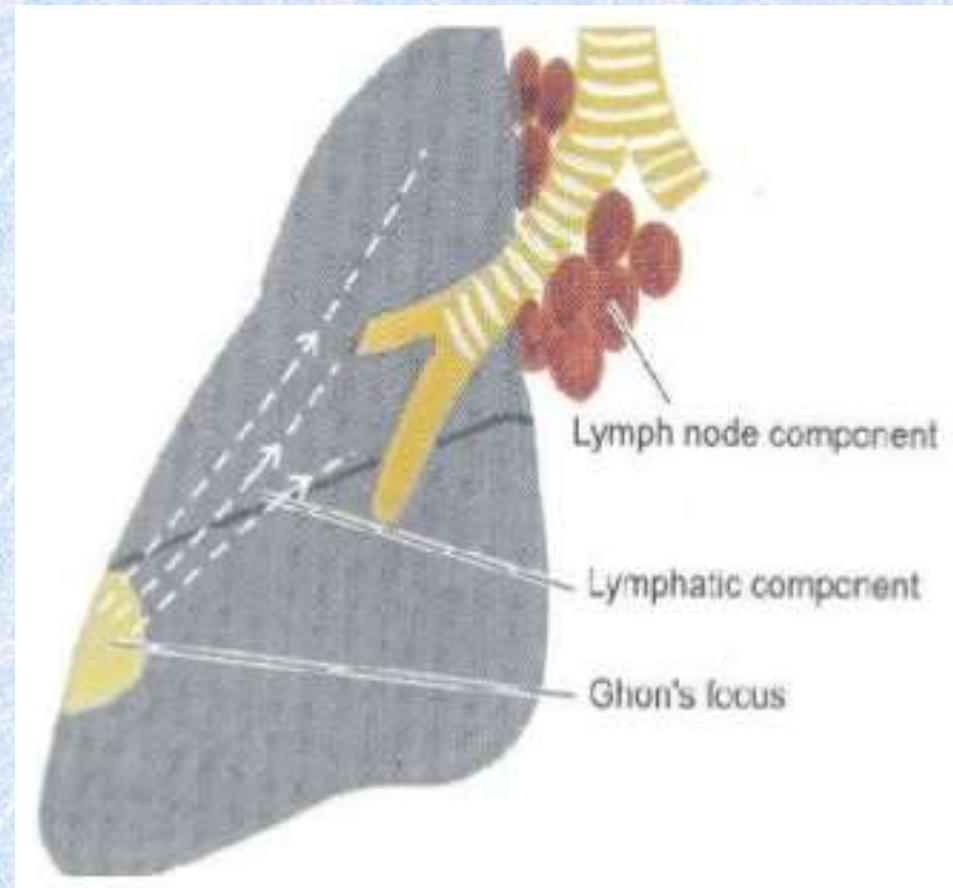
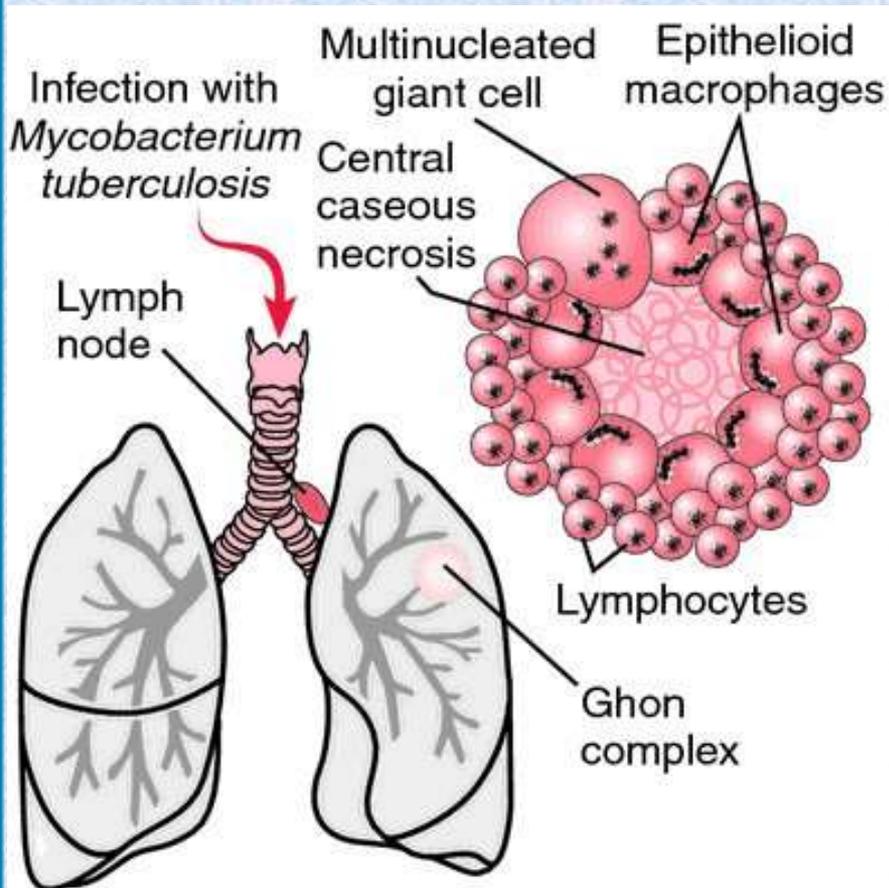
TB
lymphangitis

Prominent
Hilar and
mediastinal TB
lymphadenitis

Primary Tuberculosis

A. Primary pulmonary TB:

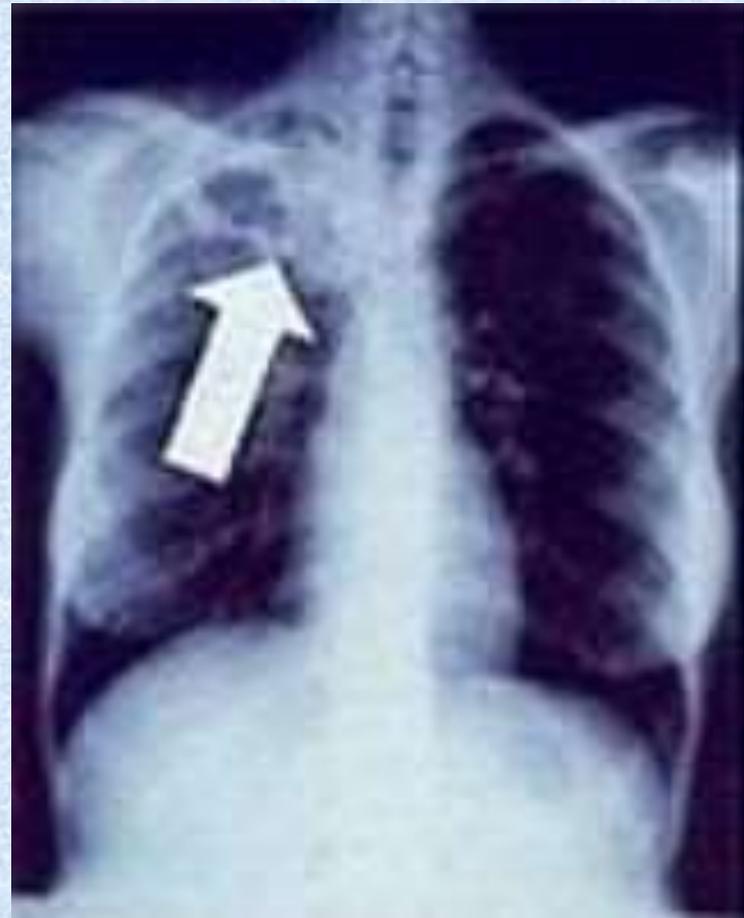
❖ Pathology (primary pulmonary complex):



Primary Tuberculosis

A. Primary pulmonary TB:

❖ Pathology (primary pulmonary complex):



Primary Tuberculosis

A. Primary pulmonary TB:

❖ Clinically:

- The patient presents with enlarged hilar/mediastinal LN

❖ Fate:

1. Localization and healing by fibrosis: occurs in 95% of cases
2. Spread:
 - a. Direct: to pleura or pericardium
 - b. Trans-bronchial to lower lung lobes, to other lung, to tonsils or intestine by sputum
 - c. Lymphatic
 - d. Blood spread:
 - Good immunity: no effect
 - Low immunity: isolated organ TB or miliary TB
3. Encapsulation and reactivation leading to secondary TB

Primary Tuberculosis

B. Primary intestinal TB:

❖ Etiology:

- Ingestion of TB bacilli; usually bovine strain

❖ Pathology (**primary intestinal complex**):

Small
intestinal ulcer

TB
lymphangitis

Prominent mesenteric
lymphadenitis
(Tabes mesenterica)

Primary Tuberculosis

B. Primary intestinal TB:

❖ Etiology:

- Ingestion of TB bacilli

❖ Pathology (primary intestinal TB)

Gross: small girdle ulcers at terminal ileum (payers patch).

MP: Epithelioid cell granuloma

Small
intestinal ulcer

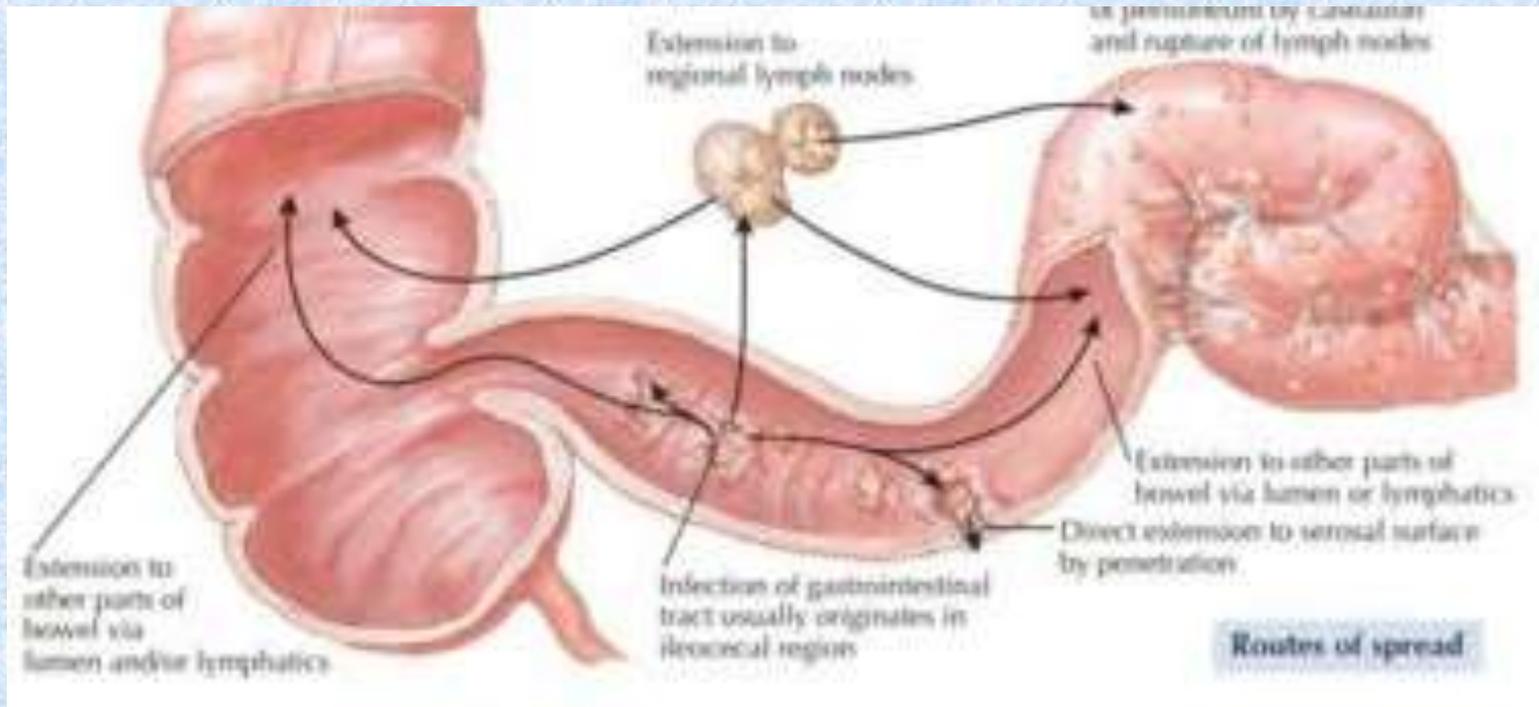
TB
lymphangitis

Prominent mesenteric
lymphadenitis
(Tabes mesenterica)

Primary Tuberculosis

B. Primary intestinal TB:

❖ Pathology (primary intestinal complex):



Primary Tuberculosis

B. Primary intestinal TB:

❖ Clinically:

- The patients presents with *enlarged mesenteric LN (Tabes mesenterica)*

❖ Fate:

1. Localization and healing by fibrosis: occurs in most cases
2. Spread:
 - a. Direct: to peritoneum
 - b. Lymphatic
 - c. Blood:
 - Good immunity: no effect
 - Low immunity: isolated organ TB or miliary TB

Primary Tuberculosis

C. Primary tonsillar TB:

❖ Etiology:

- Ingestion or inhalation of TB bacilli.

❖ Clinically:

- The patient presents with enlarged cervical LN

❖ Pathology (primary cervical complex):

Small tonsillar
ulcer or nodule

TB lymphangitis

Prominent cervical
lymphadenitis

Primary Tuberculosis

□ TB lymphadenitis:

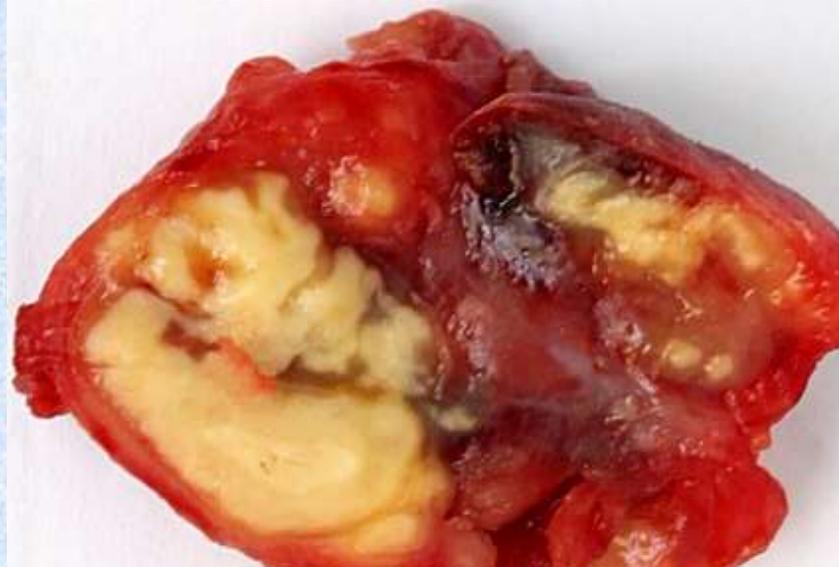
❖ Etiology:

- A component of primary complex in cases of primary TB.
- Also can be involved in secondary TB

❖ Sites

- Pulmonary hilar, mediastinal, mesenteric and cervical LNs

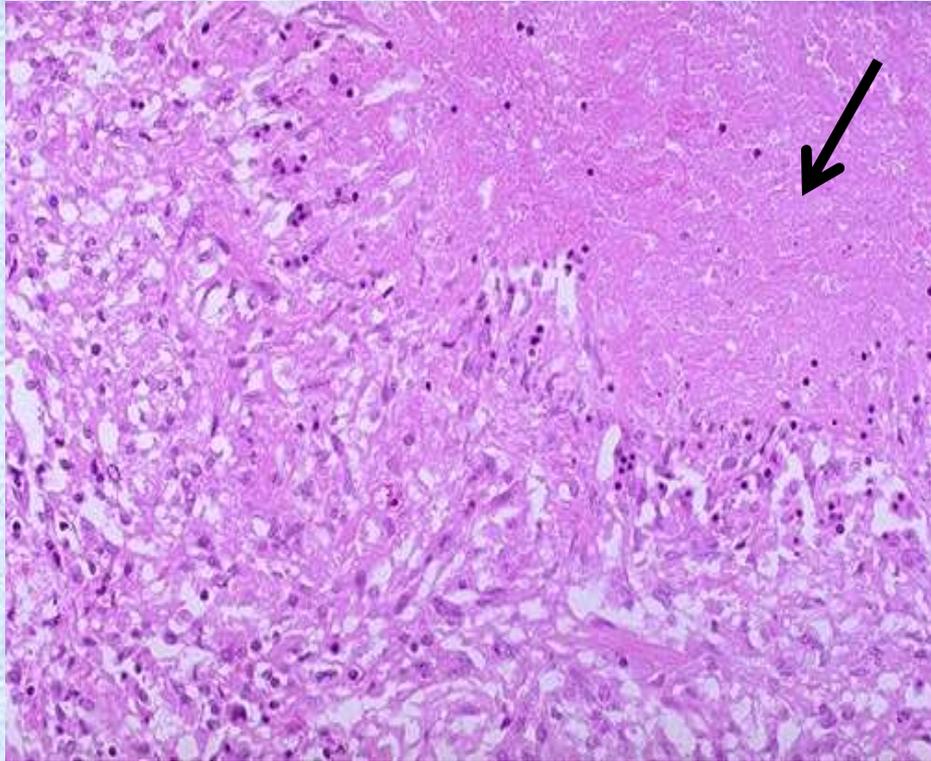
❖ Pathology:



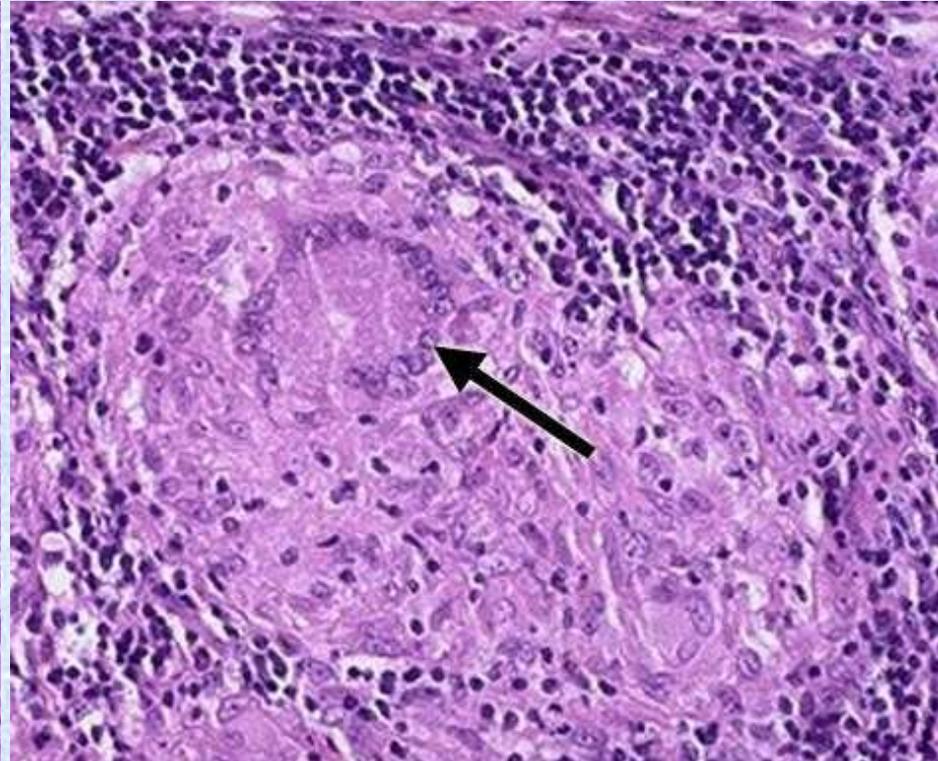
Caseating TB of LN, yellow caseating material

Primary Tuberculosis

□ TB lymphadenitis:



Caseating TB of LN, yellow caseating necrosis, arrow



Early TB of LN, NO caseation, Langhan`s giant cell, arrow

Primary Tuberculosis

□ TB lymphadenitis:

❖ Fate:

1. Localization and healing by fibrosis: the common course
2. Spread:
 - a. Direct spread: To
 - Skin (in cases of cervical LN): form a sinus.
 - Mediastinum or pericardium (cases of pulmonary hilar or mediastinal LNs)
 - To peritoneum (in cases of intestinal TB): TB peritonitis
 - b. Lymphatic: to other lymph node groups
 - c. Haematogenous:
 - Good immunity: no effect
 - Low immunity: isolated organ TB or miliary TB

Secondary TB

Secondary Tuberculosis

- **Means**: re-exposure to TB infection in a previously sensitized patient
- **More of infection**:
 - a. Endogenous: reactivation of an old TB lesion
 - b. Exogenous: re-infection in a previously infected or previously immunized patient
- **Pathologically**:
 - **Can involve any organ**
 - The site of TB infection show the main pathological lesions
 - Lymph node involvement is usually mild and insignificant

Secondary Tuberculosis

A. Secondary pulmonary TB:

❖ Mode of infection

- Re-infection by repeated inhalation of TB bacilli
- Reactivation of old encapsulated Ghon`s focus

❖ Pathological forms

1. Chronic fibro-caseous pulmonary TB (more common):
 - Chronic prolonged course
2. TB bronchopneumonia:
 - Acute fatal course

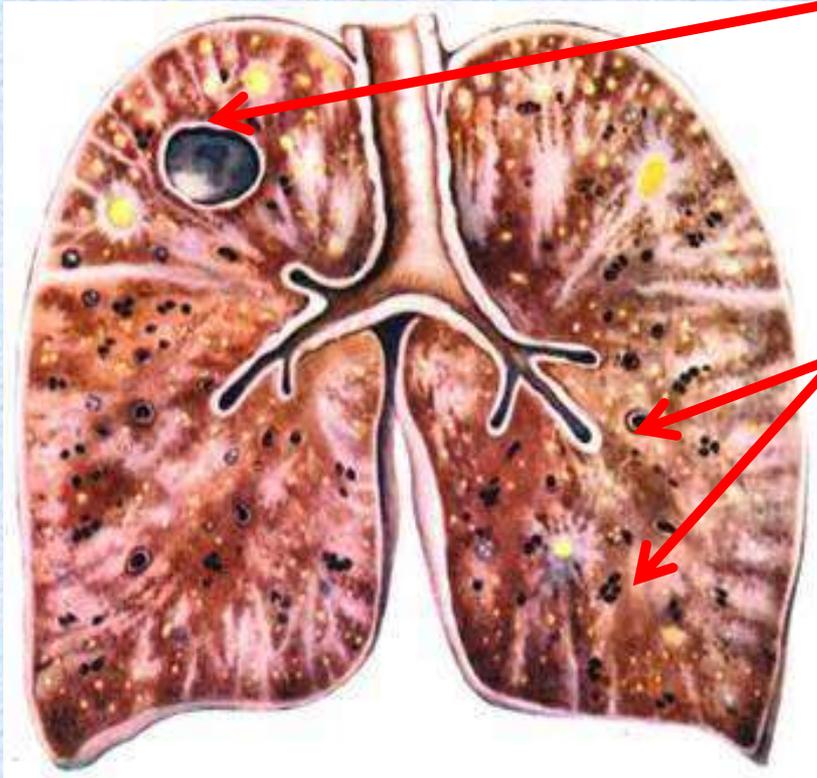
Secondary Tuberculosis

A. Secondary pulmonary TB:

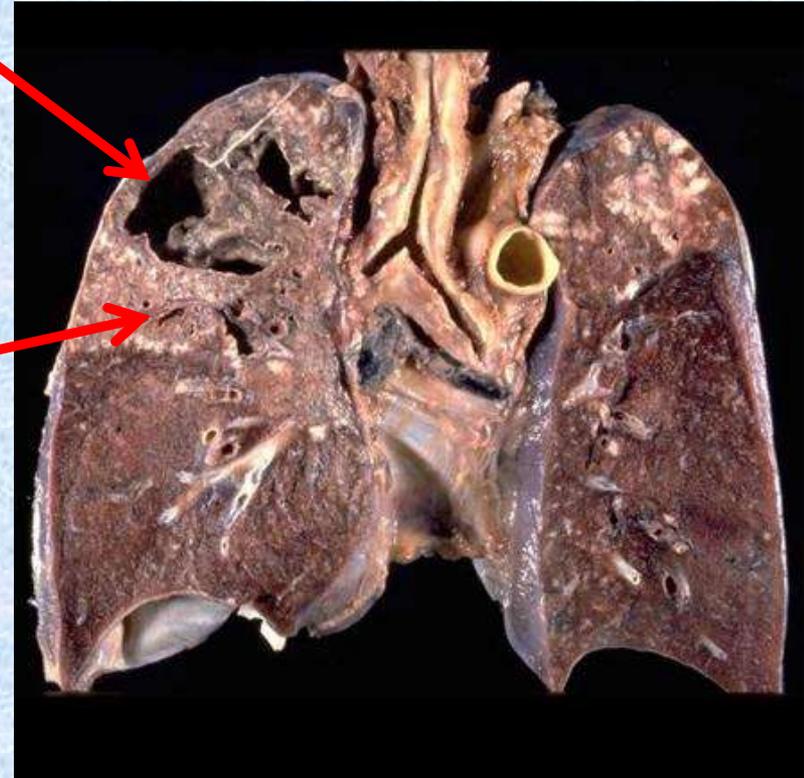
1. Chronic fibro-caseous pulmonary TB

▪ *Grossly*

Apical cavity



Acinar lesions



Insignificant mild enlarged hilar LN

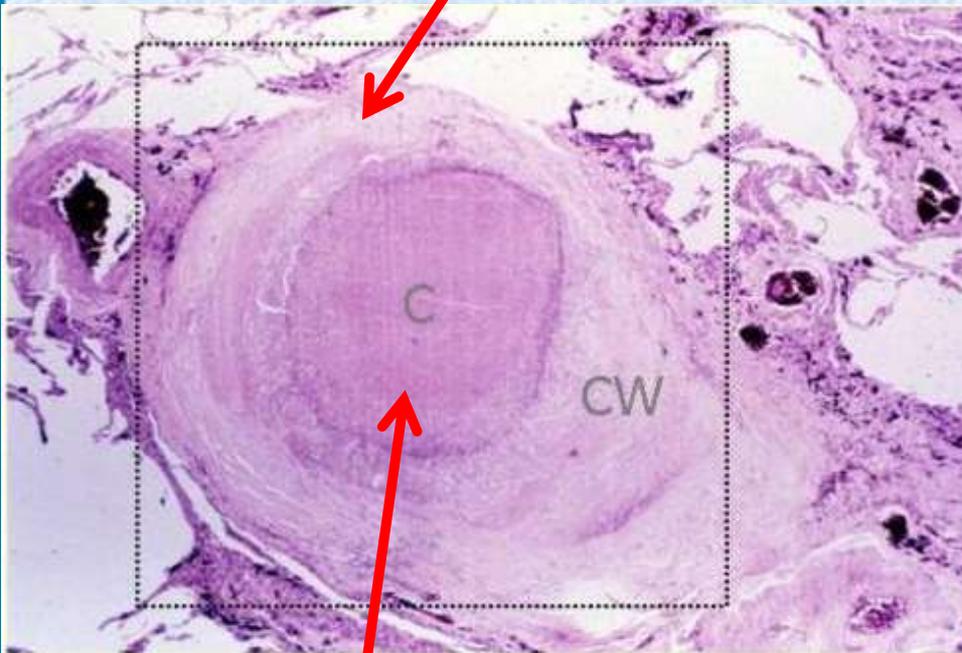
Secondary Tuberculosis

A. Secondary pulmonary TB:

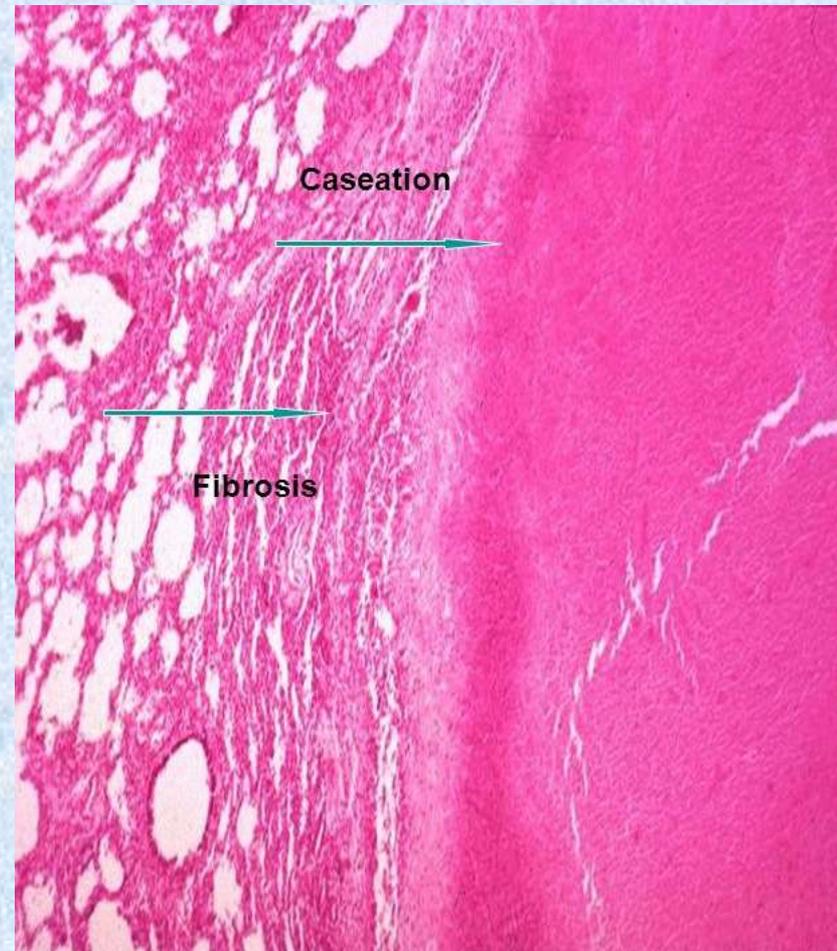
1. Chronic fibro-caseous pulmonary TB

▪ *MP*

Fibrosis



Caseation



Caseation

Fibrosis

Secondary Tuberculosis

A. Secondary pulmonary TB:

1. Chronic fibro-caseous pulmonary TB

▪ *Clinically*

1. Weakness & weight loss
2. Night sweats
3. Low grade fever
4. Chest pain and Dyspnea
5. Haemoptysis
6. Pleural effusion

▪ *Complications*

1. Haemoptysis (coughing of blood)
2. Rupture of the cavity lead to pneumothorax
3. Spread; pleura, other lung or distant spread **to ??**
4. Pulmonary fibrosis with right side heart failure

Secondary Tuberculosis

A. Secondary pulmonary TB:

2. Acute TB bronchopneumonia

▪ *Grossly*

- Both lungs are involves by large number of small caseous TB lesions
- Pleural is commonly involved (TB pleurisy)

▪ *MP:*

- Numerous caseating TB granulomas (**Describe!**)

▪ *Fate/Complications*

1. A fatal condition
2. Can lead to miliary systemic TB

Secondary Tuberculosis

B. Secondary intestinal TB:

❖ Mode of infection

- Re-infection by repeated ingestion of TB bacilli
- More commonly; swallowing of infected sputum in a patient with chronic fibro-caseous pulmonary TB

❖ Pathological features

- **Grossly:** TB ulcers of the intestine
- **MP:** Formation of granulomatous reaction (caseating or non caseating) in intestinal wall

Secondary Tuberculosis

B. Secondary intestinal TB:

❖ Pathological features



TB ulcer::

- Multiple, girdle ulcers with undermined edge
- Mild enlarged mesenteric LN



Secondary Tuberculosis

B. Secondary intestinal TB:

❖ Complications

1. Intestinal hemorrhage (melena)
2. Intestinal perforation and peritonitis
3. Intestinal fistula
4. Spread to adjacent structures as peritoneum or distant spread **Describe!!**
5. Intestinal fibrosis with secondary intestinal obstruction

Secondary Tuberculosis

C. Secondary TB of other organs:

Secondary TB may involve any organ; examples are:

- Skin
- Urinary bladder
- Kidney
- Epididymis
- Bone
- Peritoneum
- Vertebra
- Meningitis

Secondary Tuberculosis

TB of kidney:

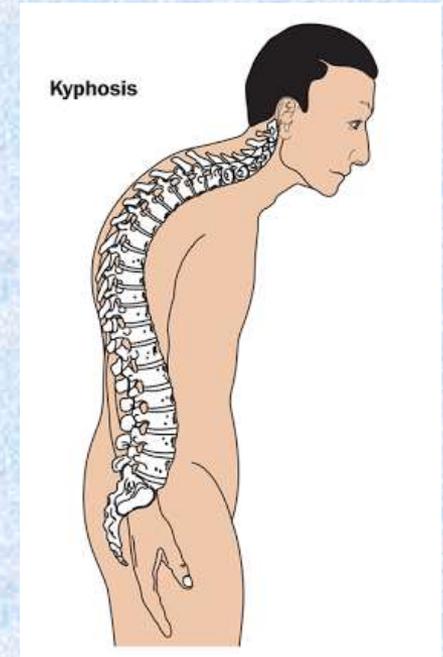
- Occurs secondary to pulmonary TB
- Mostly by haematogenous spread
- Pathological features:
 - Dilated calyces
 - Multiple small granules/nodules at cortico-medullary zone
- Complications:
 1. Haematuria
 2. Spread of infection
 3. Renal failure



Secondary Tuberculosis

TB of vertebra (Pott`s disease):

- Usually secondary to pulmonary TB.
- By haematogenous spread
- Sites:
 - Involves thoracic, lumber and cervical vertebrae in this order
- Pathological features & complications
 1. Kyphosis
 2. Formation of cold abscess
 3. Paraplegia



Tuberculosis

□ Diagnosis of TB infection:

- Clinical suspicion
- Radiological features
- Bacteriological studies
- Histopathological findings

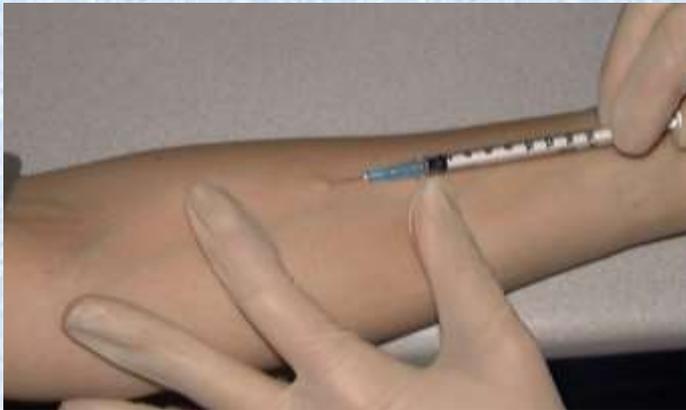
Sure diagnosis of TB depends on detection of the bacilli by Ziehl Neelsen stain in:

- In smears prepared from sputum
- In culture of sputum
- In tissue sections

Tuberculosis

❑ Tuberculin test:

- A delayed hypersensitivity of skin after injection of TB protein product called PPD (purified protein derivative)



- Intradermal injection of 0.1ml of PPD.
- The reaction develops within 48-72 hours after injection.
- Positive reaction: a wheal of 6-10 mm in diameter.

Thank you