



CORRESPONDENCE

Does alcohol consumption really affect the outcome of nontuberculous mycobacterial infections?



Dear Editor,

I read with great interest the article by Jacob et al., entitled "The effect of alcohol consumption in the treatment of nontuberculous mycobacteria."¹ Little is known about the relationship between alcohol consumption and nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) infections, and the result of this article will add insights into the exacerbating factors for this disease. However, it seems early to decide that alcohol consumption is a risk factor for worsening NTM infections.

This study did not refer to some important risk factors for developing NTM infections: the use of immunosuppressants, and the history of solid organ or hematopoietic stem cell transplantations (Table 1).^{2,3} Besides, it seems crucial to refer to the history of liver diseases. Although cirrhosis is not an established risk factor for developing NTM infections, the liver function is important in selecting the treatment regimen because of the hepatic toxicity of rifampicin and isoniazid.³

The factors I mentioned above were not included in the analysis in the article by Jacob et al. So, it seems prema-

ture to think that alcohol consumption is the risk factor for worsening NTM infections.

Authors contribution

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Conflicts of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

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Table 1 The classic factors for developing and worsening NTM infections; NTM: nontuberculous mycobacterial; TNF- α : tumor necrosis factor alpha; INF- γ : interferon gamma.

The risk factors for NTM infections

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
Cancer chemotherapy
Carcinoma
Chronic azithromycin use
Immunosuppressants such as TNF- α inhibitors
INF- γ receptor deficiencies, and auto-antibodies to INF- γ
Inhaled antibiotics
Oral and inhaled steroid therapy
Peritoneal dialysis
Proton pump inhibitors
Signal transducer and activator of transcription 1 deficiency
Transplant recipients
Underlying lung diseases

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