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**NTM**  
**Lecture Series**  
*for Patients and Families*

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# Treatment of Nontuberculous Mycobacterial (NTM) Infections



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# Disclosures

**Consultant:** Genentech, Pfizer

**Advisory Board Member:** AN2, Hyfe, Insmmed, MannKind, Matinas BioPharma Holdings, Inc., Nob Hill, Paratek Pharmaceuticals, Spero Therapeutics, Zambon

**Data Monitoring Committee:** Ostuka Pharmaceutical, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

**Contracted Research:** AN2 Therapeutics, Bugworks, Insmmed, Juvabis, Paratek Pharmaceuticals

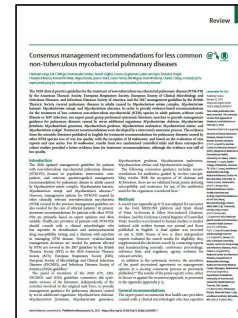
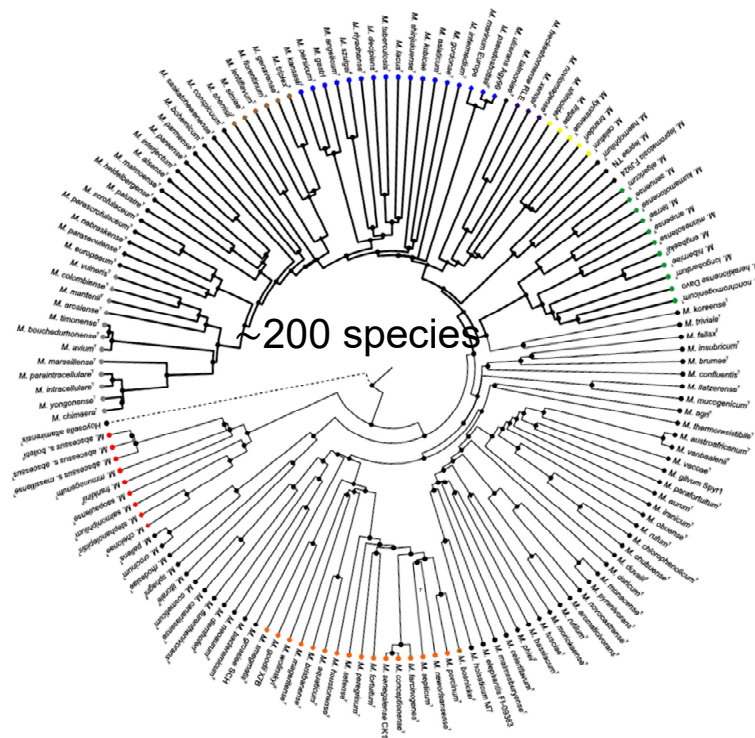


# NTM Treatment Guidelines



Slow Growers  
***M. avium complex***  
*M. kansasii*  
*M. Xenopi*

Rapid Growers  
***M. abscessus***



Slow Growers  
*M. malmoeense*  
*M. simiae*  
*M. szulgai*  
*M. genevense*  
*M. gordonae*

Rapid Growers  
*M. chelonae*  
*M. fortuitum*

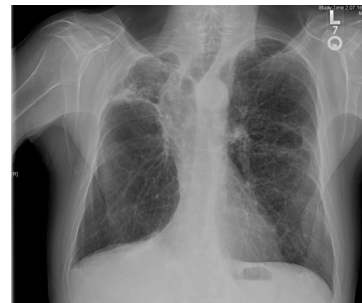
# ATS Diagnostic Criteria For NTM Lung Disease

## Clinical

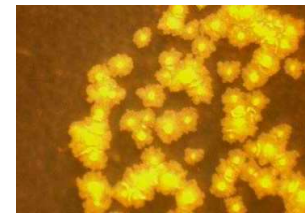


Cough  
Fatigue  
Weight Loss

## Radiographs



## Bacteriology

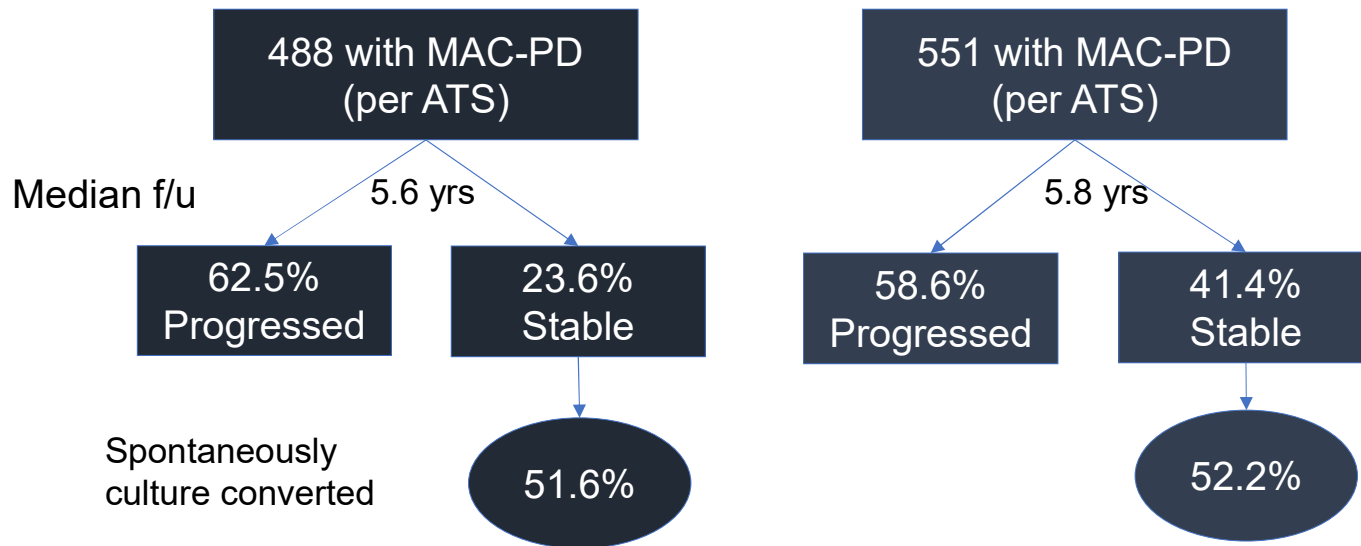


$\geq 2$  positive  
sputum cultures

# Watchful waiting or initiation of treatment?

## Guideline recommendation

In patients who meet the diagnostic criteria for NTM pulmonary disease, we suggest initiation of treatment rather than watchful waiting, especially in the context of positive acid-fast bacilli sputum smears and/or cavitary lung disease (conditional recommendation, very low certainty in estimates of effect).



Hwang JA, et al.  
Eur Respir J 2017;49:1600537

Kwon BS, et al.  
Resp Med 2019;150:45-50

# Whom to Treat?

## *Risk Factors Associated with Progression*

### Host/Demographic Factors

- Male gender
- Older age
- Presence of comorbidities
- Low body mass index

### Laboratory Factors

- Elevated inflammatory indices (ESR, CRP)
- Anemia
- Hypoalbuminemia

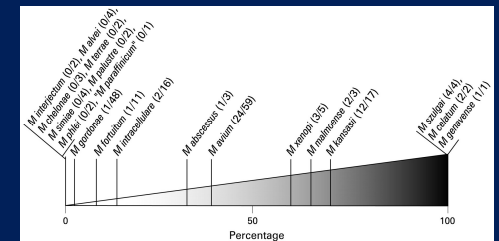
### Radiographic Factors

- Fibrocavitary
- Extent of disease



### Microbial Factors

- Bacterial load
- Species





# NTM Pulmonary Disease: Whom to Treat

Consider the:

Patient



Organism



Goals of Treatment



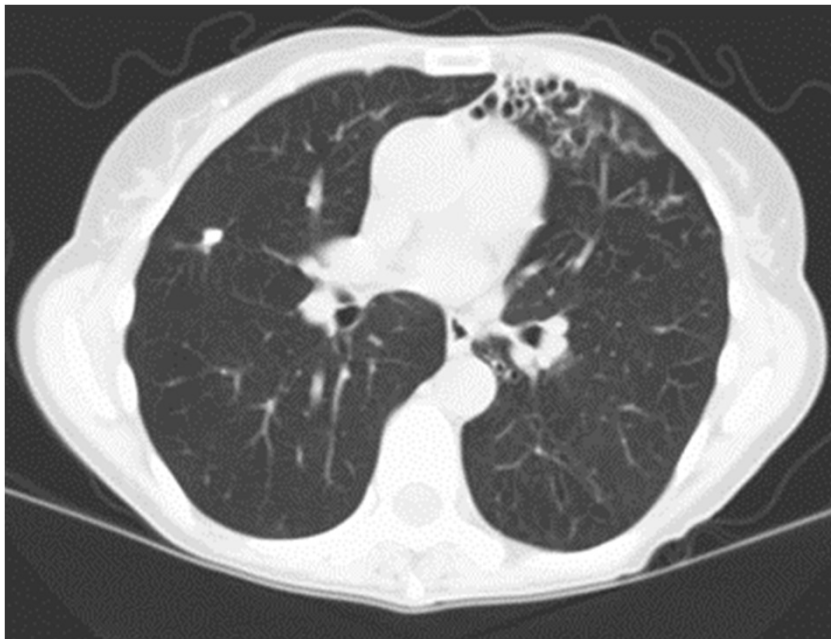
# NTM Pulmonary Disease: Whom to Treat

Patient



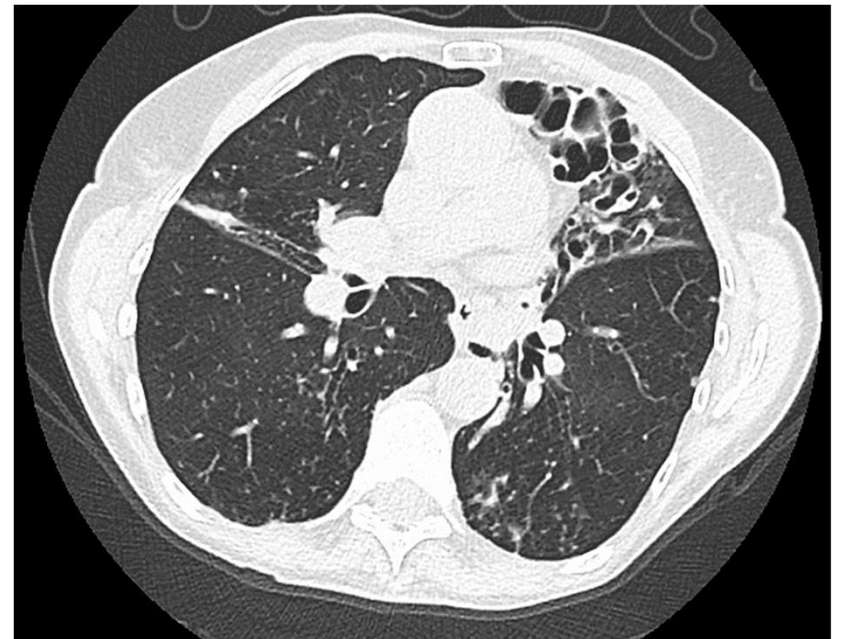
- Increased risk of progression?
  - Cavitation, positive AFB smear, other risk factors?
- Clinical symptoms and overall condition?
  - Asymptomatic vs very symptomatic
- Extent of radiograph abnormalities and whether there is evidence of progression?

# NTM Pulmonary Disease: Whom to Treat



65 yr old woman  
Chronic cough

8 yrs



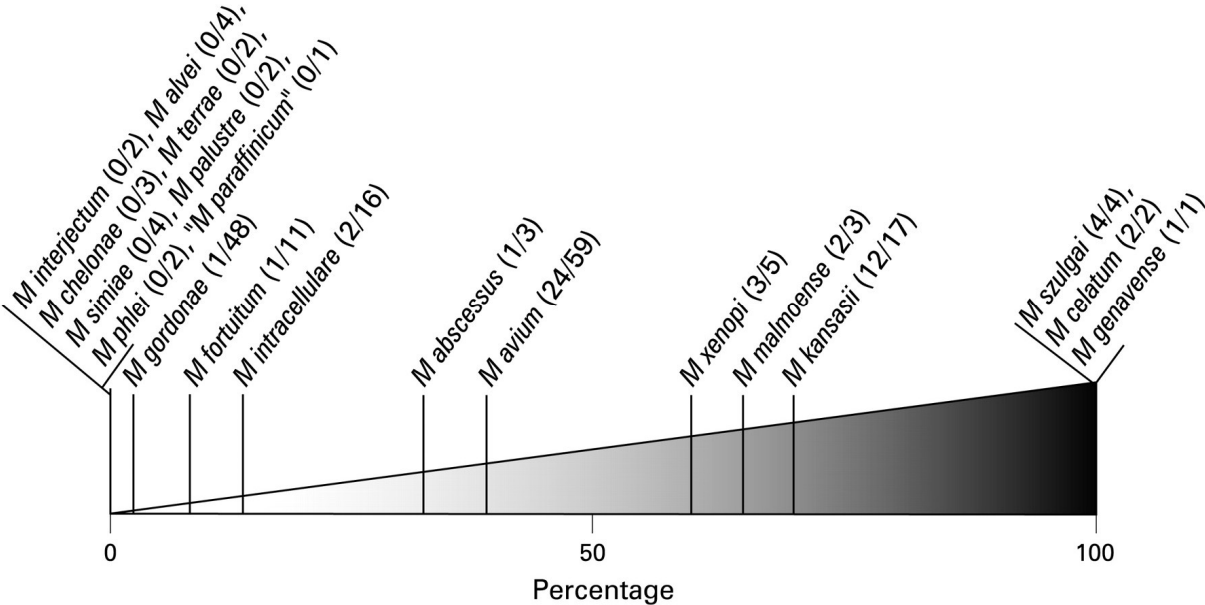
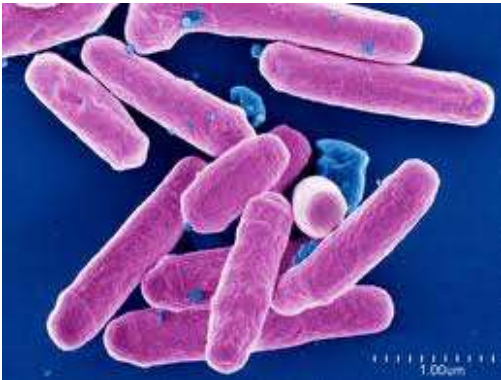
Diagnosed with MAC

"Bronchitis" 2-3 times/yr

# NTM Pulmonary Disease: Whom to Treat

The degree of pathogenicity (ability to cause disease) varies greatly among NTM

Organism



# NTM Pulmonary Disease: Whom to Treat

## Goals of Treatment



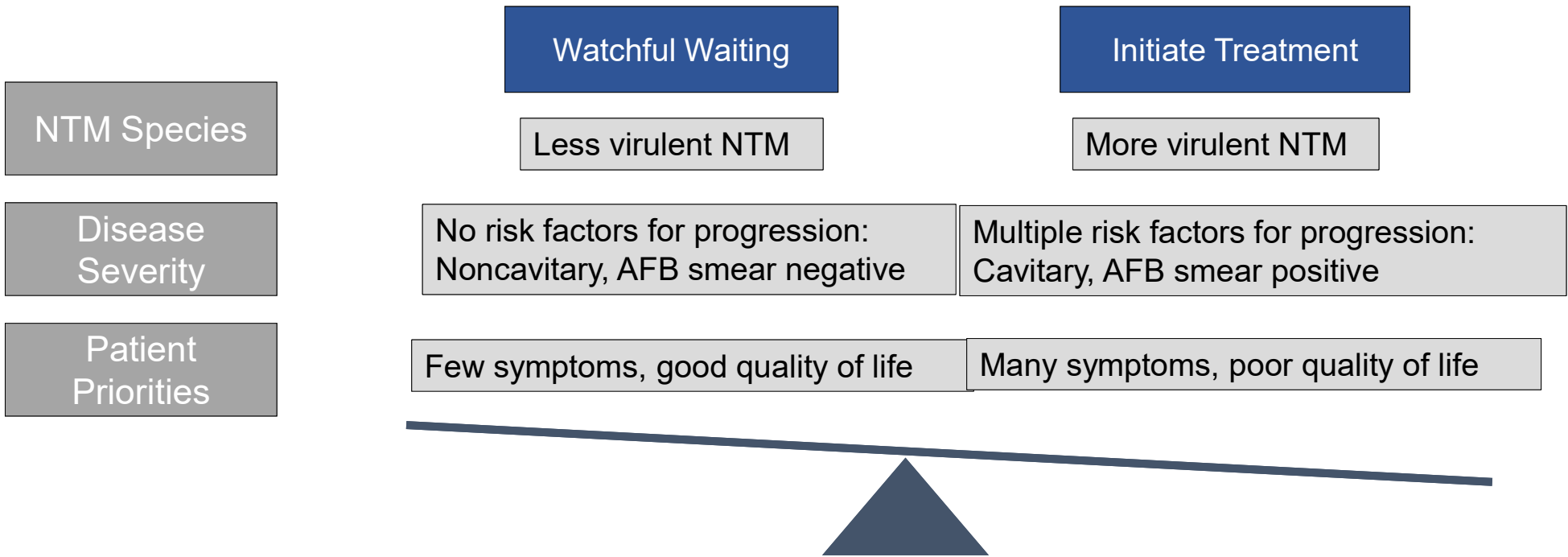
## What are we trying to achieve?

- Cure?
- Bacteriologic conversion?
- Relief of symptoms?
- Prevention of progression?
- All of the above!

# NTM: Treatment Outcomes by Species

NTM	Expected Cure
<i>M. kansasii</i>	≥ 95%
MAC	56% to 85% Depends on extent of disease
<i>M. abscessus</i>	25-80% Depends on subspecies

# Decision to Treat



# Why Early Diagnosis and Treatment Are Important

- Disease progression occurs within 3-5 years in ~60% of persons who meet ATS/IDSA diagnostic criteria<sup>1-3</sup>
- Lung function declines<sup>4,5</sup>
- 5-year all-cause mortality can be as high as 10%-33%<sup>6-8</sup>
  - Mortality is not usually due to NTM itself
  - Mortality higher in untreated than treated MAC (33% vs. 22%)<sup>6</sup>

1. Hwang JA, et al. *Eur Respir J*, 2017;49:1600537; 2. Kwon BS, et al. *Respir Med* 2019;150:45-50; 3. Moon SM, et al. *Respir Med* 2019;151:1-7; 4. Park HY, et al. *Chest* 2016;150:1222-1232; 5. Kimuzuka Y, et al. *PLoS ONE* 2019;14:e0216034; 6. Ito Y, et al. *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis* 2012;16:408-14; 7. Diel R, et al. *BMC Infect Dis* 2018;18:206; 8. Jhun BW, et al. *Eur Respir J* 2020;55:1900798.



# Treatment of NTM: Background

- Treatment requires multidrug regimens
  - Varies by species
  - Frequently associated with side-effects
- Treatment duration is long
  - 12 mos after culture becomes negative (conversion)
- Treatment outcomes are suboptimal
  - Vary by species
  - High rates of recurrence and reinfection.

# Mycobacterium avium Complex

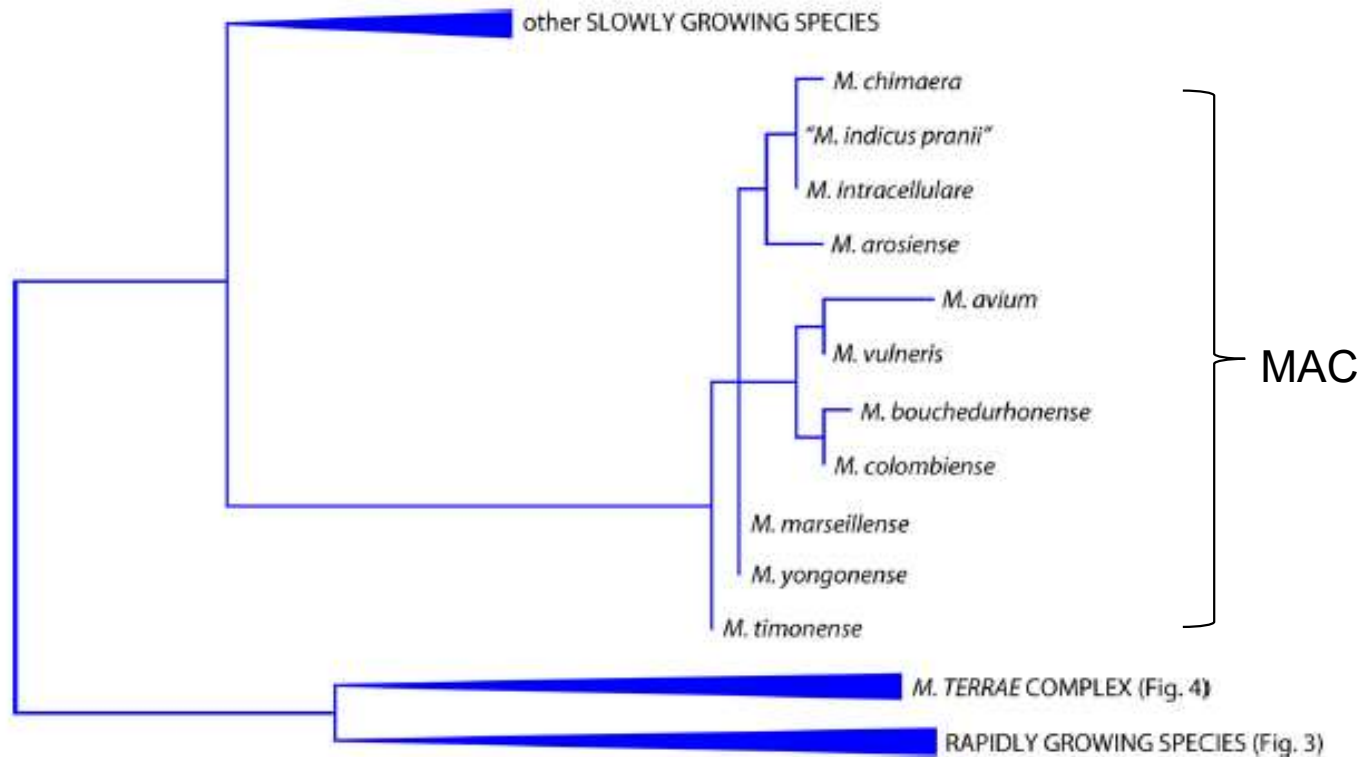
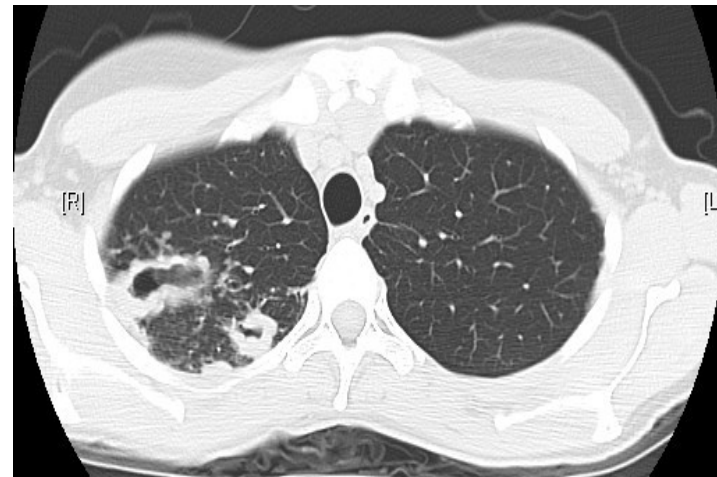


FIG 5 Phylogenetic tree, based on the 16S rRNA gene, for the species belonging to the *M. avium* complex.

35 year old Caucasian woman with cough for several weeks



# Drugs Used for the Treatment of MAC

First-Line Oral	Alternative Oral	Parenteral (IV, IM)	Inhaled
<b>Macrolides</b> azithromycin clarithromycin	<b>Fluoroquinolones</b> moxifloxacin ciprofloxacin	<b>Aminoglycosides</b> amikacin streptomycin	<b>Aminoglycosides</b> amikacin
<b>Rifamycins</b> rifampin riifabutin	<b>Oxazolidinones</b> linezolid tedizolid		
Ethambutol	Bedaquiline Clofazimine		



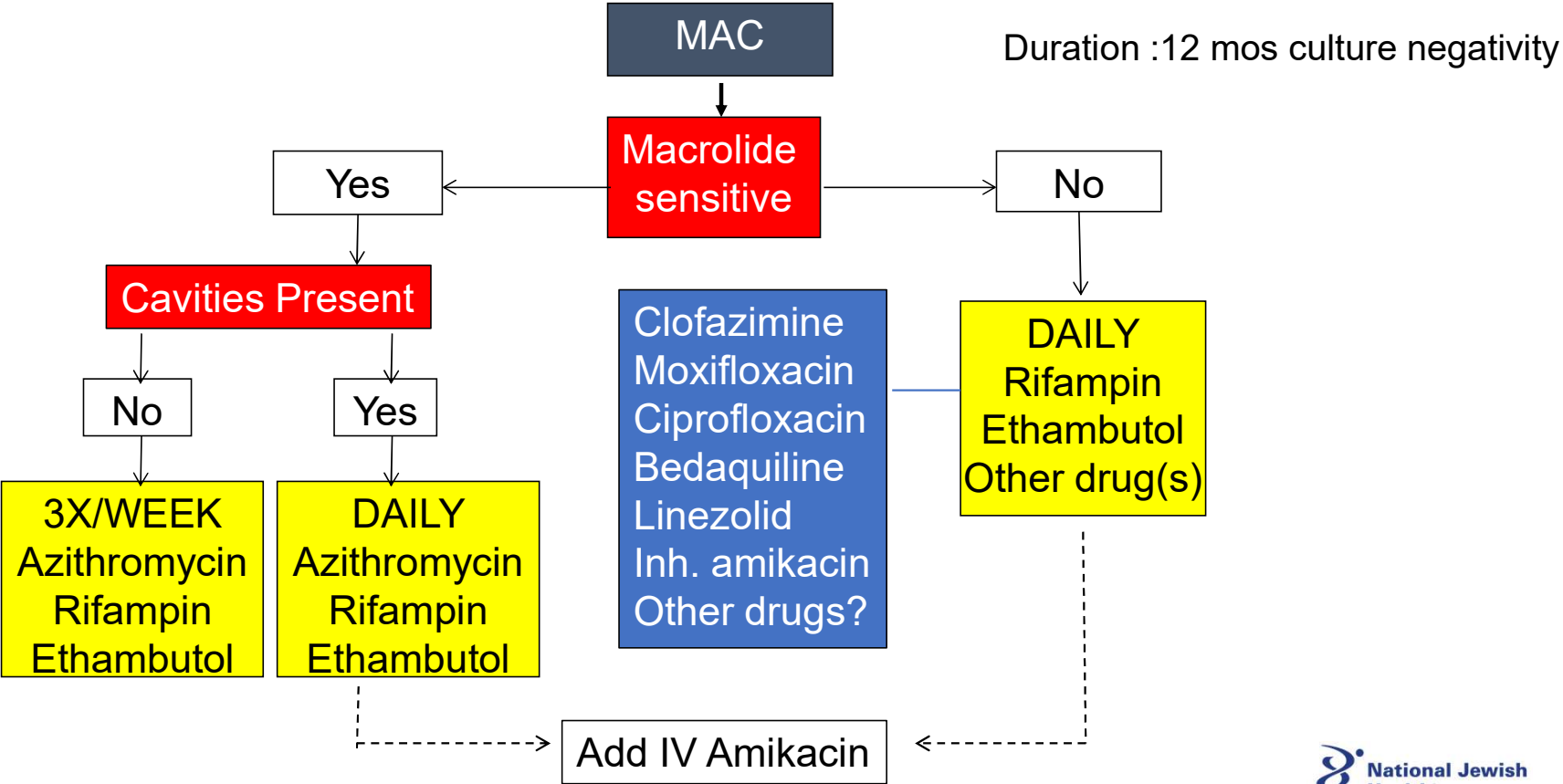
# Recommended Initial Treatment Regimens for MAC Pulmonary Disease

Phenotype	No. of Drugs	Preferred Regimen <sup>a</sup>	Dosing Frequency	Duration
Nodular-bronchiectatic	3	Azithromycin (clarithromycin) Rifampin (rifabutin) Ethambutol	3 times weekly	12 months beyond culture conversion
Cavitary	≥ 3	Azithromycin (clarithromycin) Rifampin (rifabutin) Ethambutol Amikacin IV (streptomycin) <sup>b</sup>	Daily (IV aminoglycoside may be used 3 times weekly)	

a. Alternative drugs could include clofazimine, moxifloxacin, linezolid (tedizolid), bedaquiline

b. Consider for cavitary, extensive nodular bronchiectatic or macrolide resistant disease

# Treatment of Pulmonary *M. avium* complex



# Treatment Outcomes for MAC

	Culture Conversion	Microbiologic Recurrence	Reinfection
Macrolide susceptible			
Non cavitory	70% - 80%	25-48%	46-75%
Cavitory	50% - 80%		

Griffith DE et al. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2006;174:928-934.  
 Jeong BH et al. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2015;191:96-103.  
 Moon SM et al. *Eur Respir J.* 2016;50:1602503.

Wallace R et al. *Chest.* 2014;146:276-282.  
 Koh WJ et al. *Eur Respir J.* 2017;50.  
 Morimoto K et al. *Ann Am Thorac Soc.* 2016;11:1904.

Boyle DP et al. *Ann Am Thorac Soc.* 2016;13:1956-1961



# Treatment Outcomes for MAC

	Culture Conversion	Microbiologic Recurrence	Reinfection
Macrolide susceptible			
Non cavitory	70% - 80%	25-48%	46-75%
Cavitory	50% - 80%		
Macrolide resistant			
No surgery/aminoglycoside*	5%	—	—
Some surgery/aminoglycoside	15%		
Surgery + prolonged aminoglycoside*	80%		

\* ≥ 6 months parenteral aminoglycoside

Griffith DE et al. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2006;174:928-934.  
 Jeong BH et al. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2015;191:96-103.  
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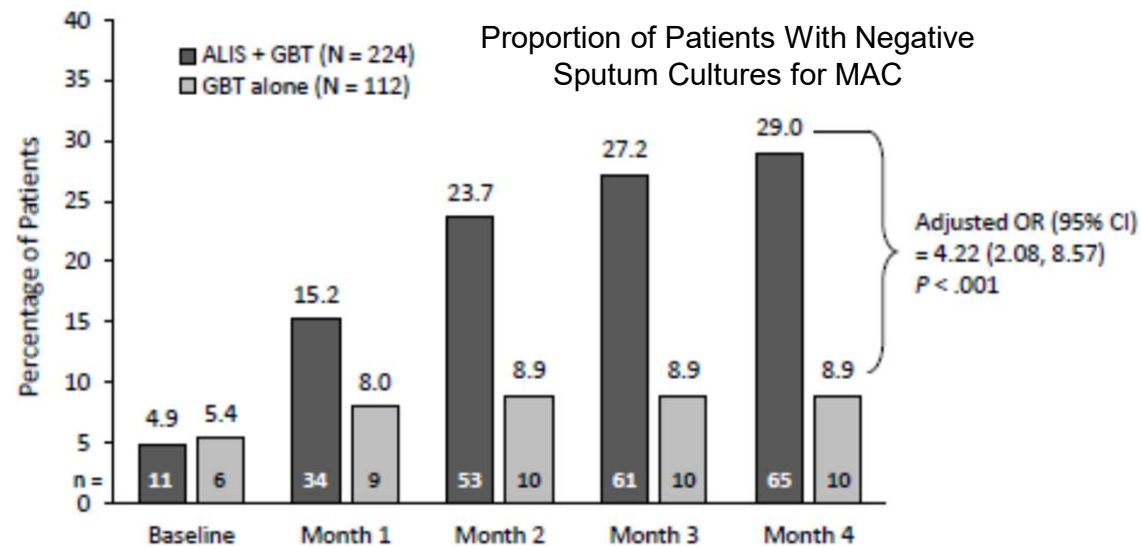
Boyle DP et al. *Ann Am Thorac Soc.* 2016;13:1956-1961

# Treatment Refractory MAC Pulmonary Disease

## Guideline recommendation

In patients with MAC pulmonary disease who have failed therapy after at least six months of guideline-based therapy, we recommend addition of amikacin liposome inhalation suspension (ALIS) to the treatment regimen rather than a standard oral regimen, only. (strong recommendation, moderate certainty in estimates of effect).

CONVERT Study – Randomized, controlled study of ALIS in treatment refractory MAC pulmonary disease



# Recommended Treatment Regimens for MAC Pulmonary Disease

	No. of Drugs	Preferred Regimen <sup>a</sup>	Dosing Frequency
Nodular-bronchiectatic	3	Azithromycin (clarithromycin) Rifampicin (rifabutin) Ethambutol	3 times weekly
Cavitary	≥ 3	Azithromycin (clarithromycin) Rifampicin (rifabutin) Ethambutol Amikacin IV (streptomycin) <sup>b</sup>	Daily (IV aminoglycoside may be used 3 times weekly)
Refractory <sup>c</sup>	≥ 4	Azithromycin (clarithromycin) Rifampicin (rifabutin) Ethambutol Amikacin liposome inhalation suspension or IV (streptomycin) <sup>b</sup>	Daily (IV aminoglycoside may be used 3 times weekly)

a. Alternative drugs could include clofazimine, moxifloxacin, linezolid (tedizolid), bedaquiline

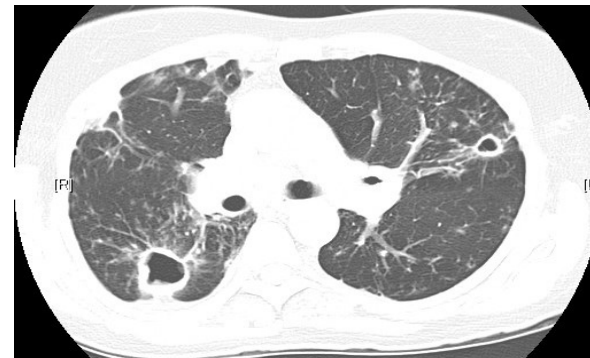
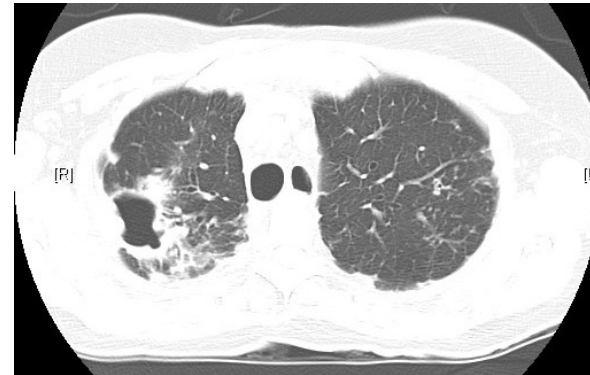
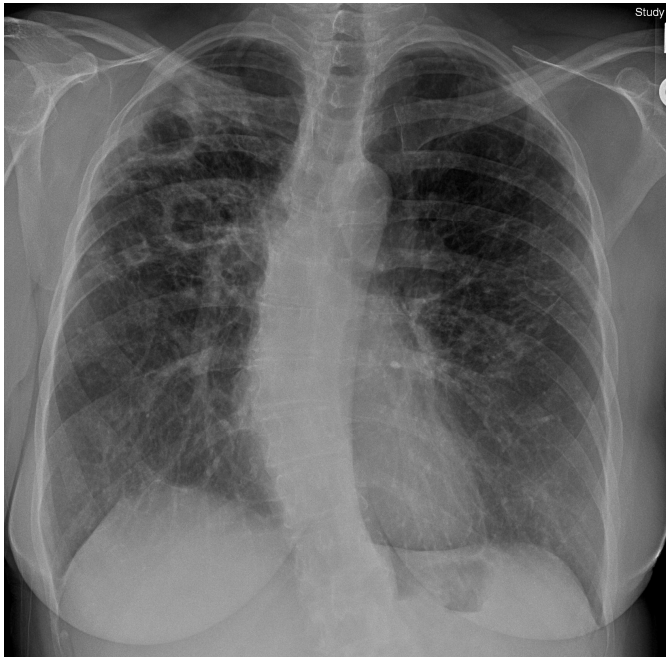
b. Consider for cavitary, extensive nodular bronchiectatic or macrolide resistant disease

c. Sputum culture positive after 6 months of guideline-based therapy

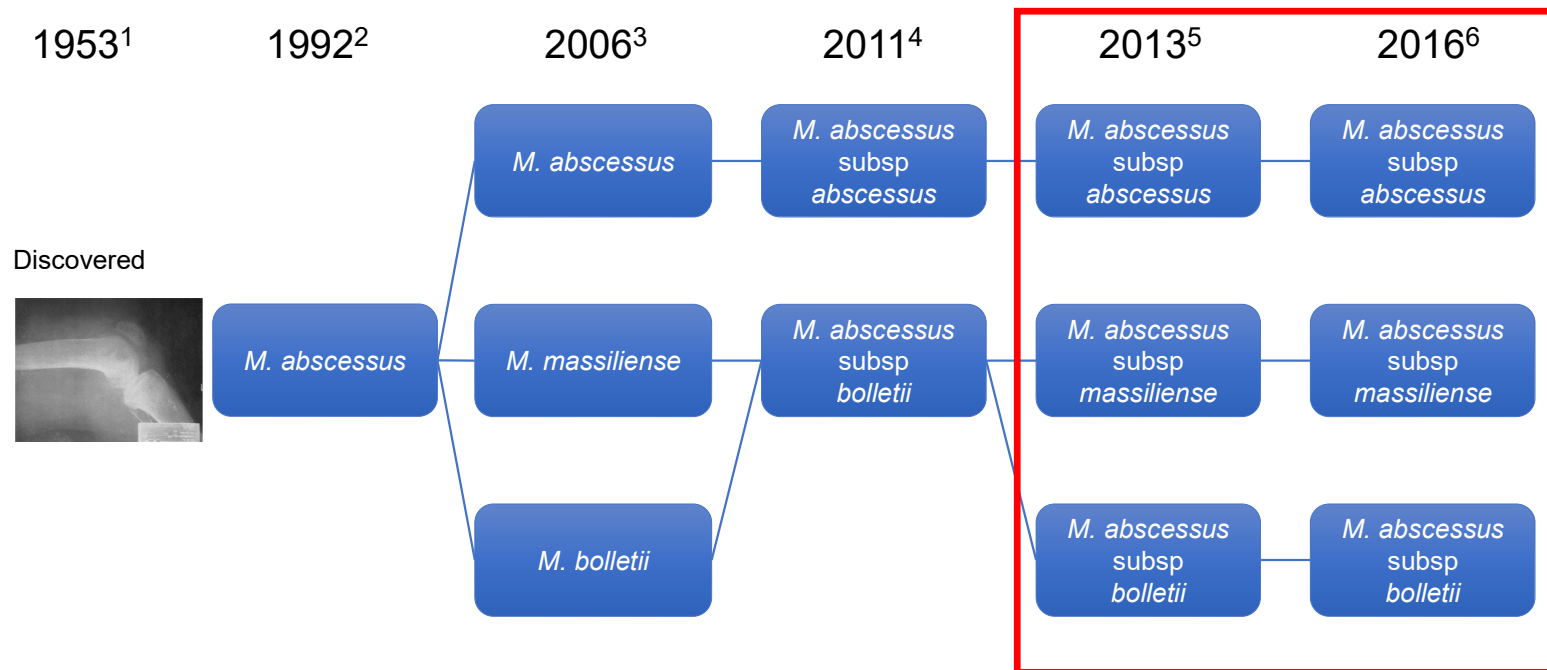
## *M. avium* complexa: Summary

- MAC pulmonary disease should be treated with a macrolide-based regimen
- An aminoglycoside should be considered in cavitary disease and when macrolide resistance is present
- The optimal duration of therapy is not known but should be *at least* 12 months beyond the point of culture conversion
- Macrolide susceptible MAC is usually cured
- In treatment refractory MAC, amikacin liposome inhalation suspension should be added to guideline-based therapy
- Recurrences are common and usually due to reinfection with another strain (or species)

68 year old woman with chronic cough and fatigue



# *Mycobacterium abscessus*: An Evolving Taxonomy



<sup>1</sup>Moore M J Invest Derm 1953;20:133

<sup>2</sup>Kusunoki S. Int J Syst Bacteriol 1992;42:240

<sup>3</sup>Adekambi T. Int J Syst Bacteriol 2006;56:133


<sup>3</sup>Adekambi T. Int J Syst Bacteriol 2006;56:2025

<sup>4</sup>Leao SC. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol 2011;61:2311

<sup>5</sup>Cho YJ. PLoS ONE 2013 8(11):e81560

<sup>6</sup>Tortoli E. Int J Syst Evol Microbiol 2016;66:4471

# Drugs Used for the Treatment of *M. abscessus*

First-Line Oral	Alternative Oral	Parenteral (IV, IM)	Inhaled
<b>Macrolides</b> azithromycin clarithromycin	<b>Fluoroquinolones</b> moxifloxacin ciprofloxacin	<b>Aminoglycosides</b> amikacin streptomycin	<b>Aminoglycosides</b> amikacin (off-label use)
<b>Oxazolidinones</b> linezolid tedizolid		<b>Carbapenems</b> imipenem meropenem	
<b>Cycline</b> omadacycline clofazimine		<b>Cephalosporins</b> cefoxitin	
bedaquiline		<b>Cyclines</b> tigecycline omadacycline eravacycline	

# *Mycobacterium abscessus*: Macrolide Resistance

***M. abscessus* is resistant to most antimicrobials**

Resistance to macrolides impacts treatment outcomes

Two types of resistance:



## **Mutational Resistance**

Mutation in *rrl* gene

## **Inducible Resistance**

Erythromycin ribosomal  
methylase gene, *erm(41)*



# *Mycobacterium abscessus*: Inducible Macrolide Resistance

	Erythromycin ribosomal methylase gene, <i>erm</i> (41)	Functional <i>erm</i> (41) gene	Inducible macrolide resistance	Macrolide is active
<i>M. abscessus</i> subsp <i>abscessus</i>	erm gene	Yes	Yes	X
	C28 mutation	No	No	✓
<i>M. abscessus</i> subsp <i>massiliense</i>	Truncated <i>erm</i> gene	No	No	✓
<i>M. abscessus</i> subsp <i>bolletii</i>	erm gene	Yes	Yes	X

# Mycobacteriology Laboratory Results

## Common Report

**Identification:**  
*M. chelonae-abscessus* group

**Drug susceptibility:**  
 Amikacin R  
 Cefoxitin I  
 Clarithromycin S  
 Tigecycline S

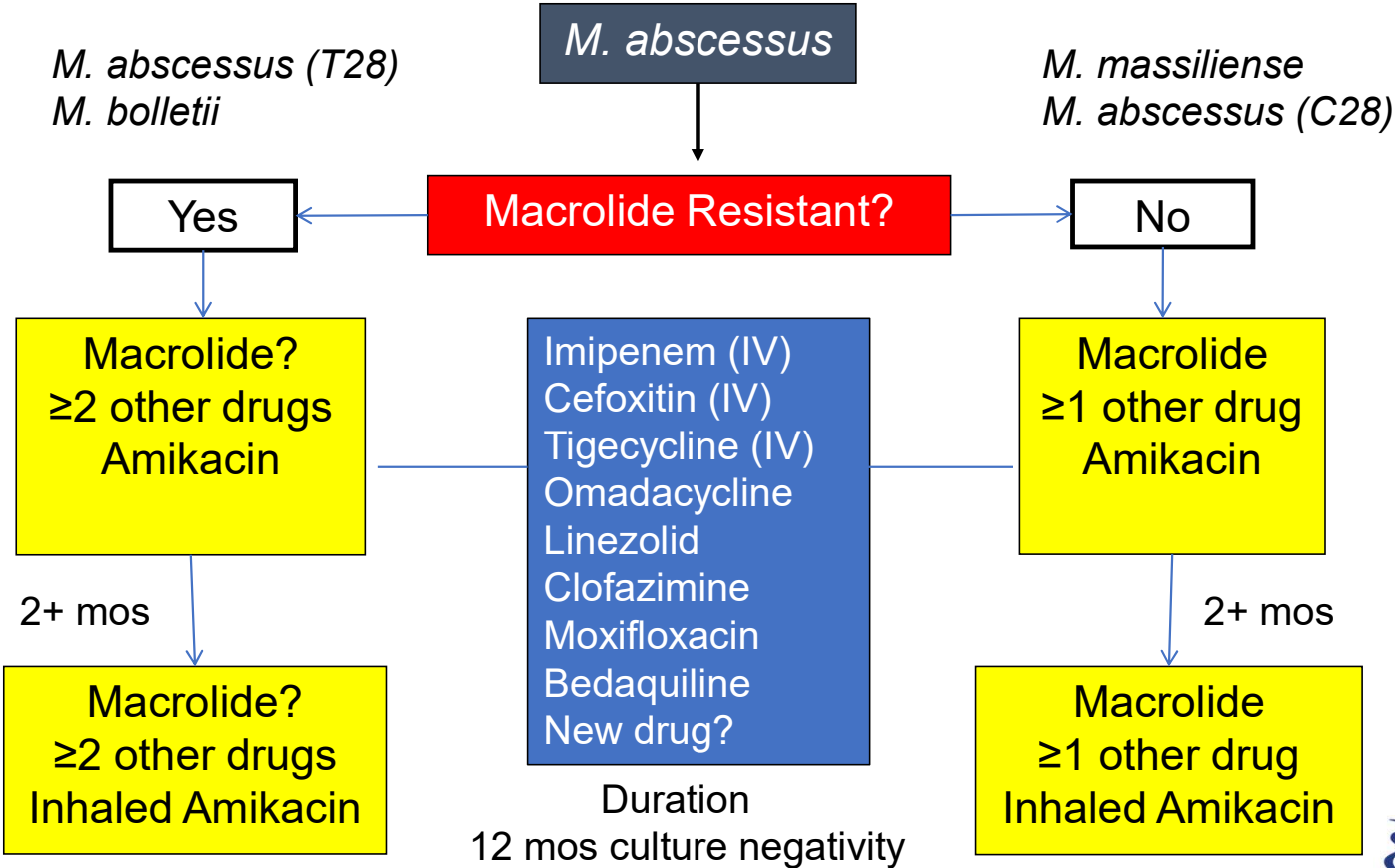


## Preferred Report

**Identification:**  
 200 colonies of *M. abscessus*,  
 subspecies *abscessus*  
**erm(41)** – present, T28C mutation

<b>Drug susceptibility:</b>	<b>MIC</b>
<b>Amikacin</b>	8
Cefoxitin	16
<b>Clarithromycin</b>	1
Imipenem	16
Tigecycline	0.125
Clofazimine	<0.5

# Treatment of *M. abscessus* complex



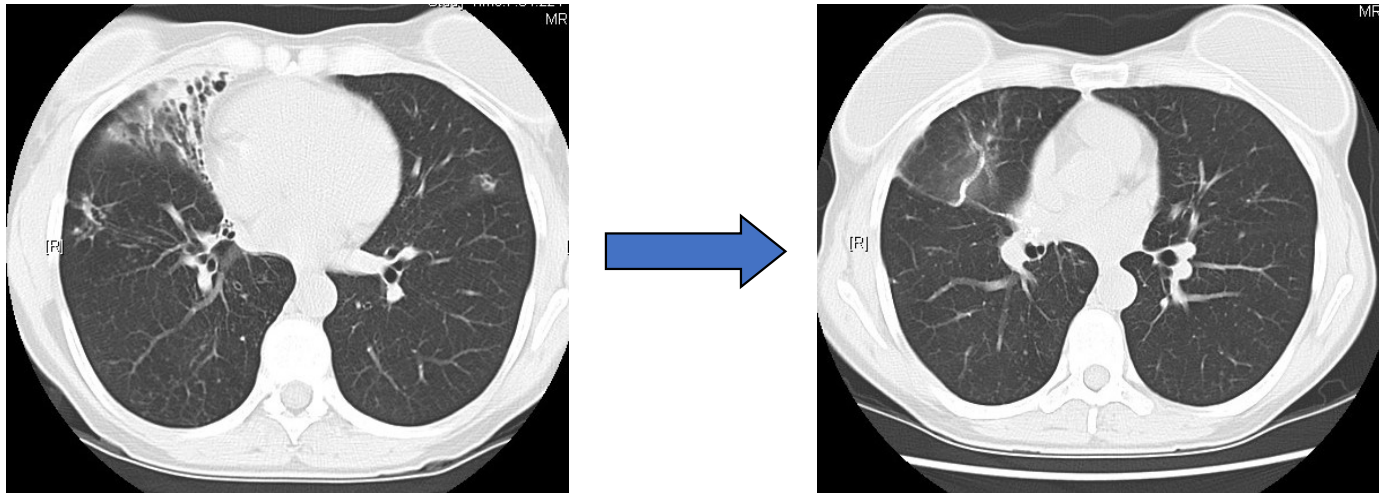
# Treatment Outcomes for *M. abscessus* vs. *M. massiliense*

Study	Population	Treatment	N	Sputum conversion	Failure to convert	Recurrence*
Koh, 2011	Non Cystic Fibrosis	<i>M. abscessus</i>	24	25%	58%	17%
		<i>M. massiliense</i>	33	<b>88%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>9%</b>
Lyu, 2014	Non Cystic Fibrosis	<i>M. abscessus</i>	26	42%	27%	31%
		<i>M. massiliense</i>	22	<b>96%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Roux, 2015	Cystic Fibrosis	<i>M. abscessus</i>	12	25%	-	-
		<i>M. massiliense</i>	7	<b>86%</b>	-	-
Park, 2017	Non Cystic Fibrosis	<i>M. abscessus</i>	19	26%	74%	55%
		<i>M. massiliense</i>	17	<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>0%</b>

\*Most recurrences are due to reinfection

# Surgery

56 year old Caucasian woman cleared her MAC but not the *M. abscessus*



	<u>Treatment Success</u>
Jeon, 2009	58% (med) vs 88% (med+surg)
Jarand, 2011	39% (med) vs 65% (med+surg)

## *M. abscessus*: Summary

- *M. abscessus* has high levels of *in vitro* resistance to many antibiotics
- Treatment requires a combination of intravenous, oral, and inhaled antibiotics
- Treatment outcomes are usually good when the *erm(41)* gene is not functional
- Most recurrences appear to be due to reinfection or another species
- Surgical resection may increase bacteriologic conversion

# World NTM Awareness Day!

