### Does the Time Between Diagnosis and Antibiotic Initiation Impact Outcomes in Nontuberculous Mycobacteria-Pulmonary Disease (NTM-PD)?

#### STUDY DESIGN

Retrospective cohort analyzing 712 patients who received antibiotics for ≥6 months after diagnosis of NTM-PD.

**Timing** of antibiotic initiation was **attending dependent**, with some utilizing the “watchful waiting” approach.

#### RESULTS

After **treatment initiation**,

- 67% converted within **6 months**
- Conversion within 6 months associated with reduced **mortality** (adjHR 0.51; 95% CI, 0.33-0.78)

- Median time to antibiotics 4.8 months (IQR 1.3-20.8 months)
- Adopting a **waiting period** without antibiotic treatment was **not associated** with culture conversion or death

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A watchful waiting period for treatment initiation did not impact the survival of patients with NTM-PD. However, achieving culture conversion had significant survival benefits.

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Im Y, et al. **CHEST** May 2022 | @journal_CHEST | https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chest.2021.10.048

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