

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



STUDY DESIGN

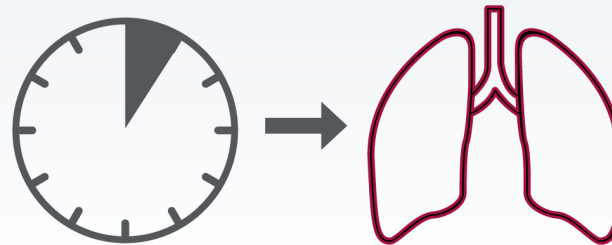
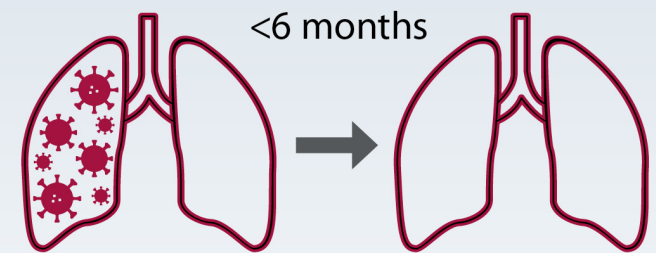
Retrospective cohort analyzing **712 patients** who received antibiotics for ≥ 6 months after diagnosis of NTM-PD

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

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.