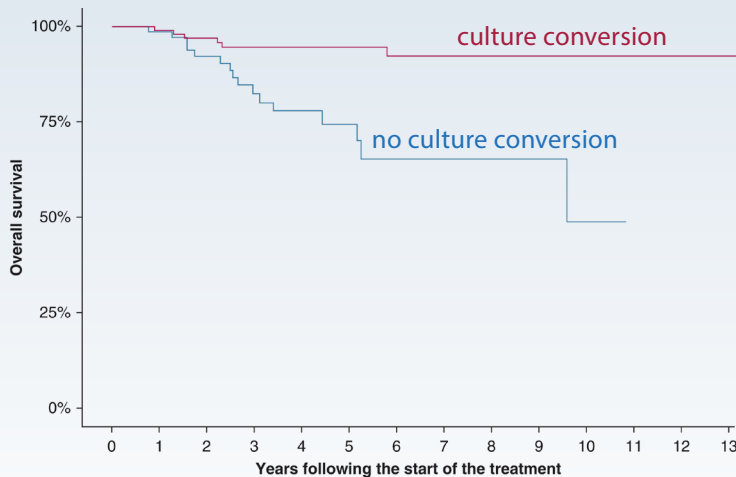


Is Culture Conversion Associated With Mortality in Patients With *Mycobacterium abscessus* Complex Pulmonary Disease?

STUDY DESIGN

Retrospective study of *Mycobacterium abscessus* complex pulmonary disease (MABC-PD) in patients who completed ≥ 6 months of macrolide-based treatment from 2012 to 2023 to **assess association between culture conversion and all-cause mortality**

RESULTS



Among 172 patients, **58.1% achieved culture conversion**, with a median follow-up of 4.4 years.

• 41.9% did not, with a median follow-up of 3.1 years.



Mortality risk 1.57x
(95% CI, 1.13-2.20) in those with no culture conversion

All-cause mortality **↑** in those with no culture conversion
(22.5% vs 6.0%, $P = .002$)

- 5-year mortality
5.5% vs 25.7%
- 10-year mortality
7.7% vs 51.0%

This study indicates that culture conversion at treatment completion is a key prognostic factor in MABC-PD, with failure to achieve conversion significantly associated with increased mortality.