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.” 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). 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.

The factors I mentioned above were not included in the analysis in the article by Jacob et al. So, it seems premature to think that alcohol consumption is the risk factor for worsening NTM infections.

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Conflicts of interest

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References


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