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## Diagnostic delay in lung cancer

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**Background:** Lung cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. The delay in diagnosis of lung cancer worsens prognosis of the disease. Reducing diagnostic delay could reduce mortality.

**Aim:** The purpose of the study was to define factors associated with a delay of lung cancer diagnostics.

**Methods:** Medical reports of 55 patients with lung cancer were analyzed. Clinical presentation, radiological, laboratory data of all patients was collected. Odds ratios (OR) and nominal 95% confidence intervals (CI) were presented.

**Results:** Mean age of patients  $58.4 \pm 13.8$  yrs. Men in the study were 37 (67%). The period from the disease manifestation up to making a true diagnosis was  $90.4 \pm 77.3$  days, patients delay was  $32 \pm 38$  days. 44% of the patients were previously treated of an assumed pneumonia before hospitalization in TB hospital. All patients have been hospitalized with wrong diagnosis of pulmonary TB, a principal cause-misinterpretation of chest radiogram. 48% of lung cancer patients mistakenly treated for TB for a long time. Factors associated with increase of diagnostic delay were: acute onset of the disease (OR: 0.4, 95% CI: 0.2–0.8), fever (OR: 0.4, 95% CI: 0.2–0.8), absence of symptoms (OR: 0.4, 95% CI: 0.1–0.9), absence of hematological changes (OR: 0.3, 95% CI: 0.1–0.7), nonspecific microbial growth in sputum (OR: 0.1, 95% CI: 0.01–0.7) and detection of acid-fast bacillus (AFB) in sputum (OR: 0.2, 95% CI: 0.06–0.7). Factors associated with decrease of diagnostic delay were also found.

**Conclusions:** Before the establishment of a true diagnosis, patients with lung cancer had over diagnosis of tuberculosis and community-acquired pneumonia. It can be said that diagnosis requires histological confirmation.

## Biography

Zhanna Laushkina works as a leading Senior Researcher and a Physician at the Novosibirsk Tuberculosis Research Institute. At the age of 28 she successfully presented results of her PhD research work. In 2016 she defended her doctoral dissertation. The areas of her research work are the problems of differential diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis and other lung diseases and treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis. She is has published 35 papers in reputed journals.

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