

# TB-IRIS

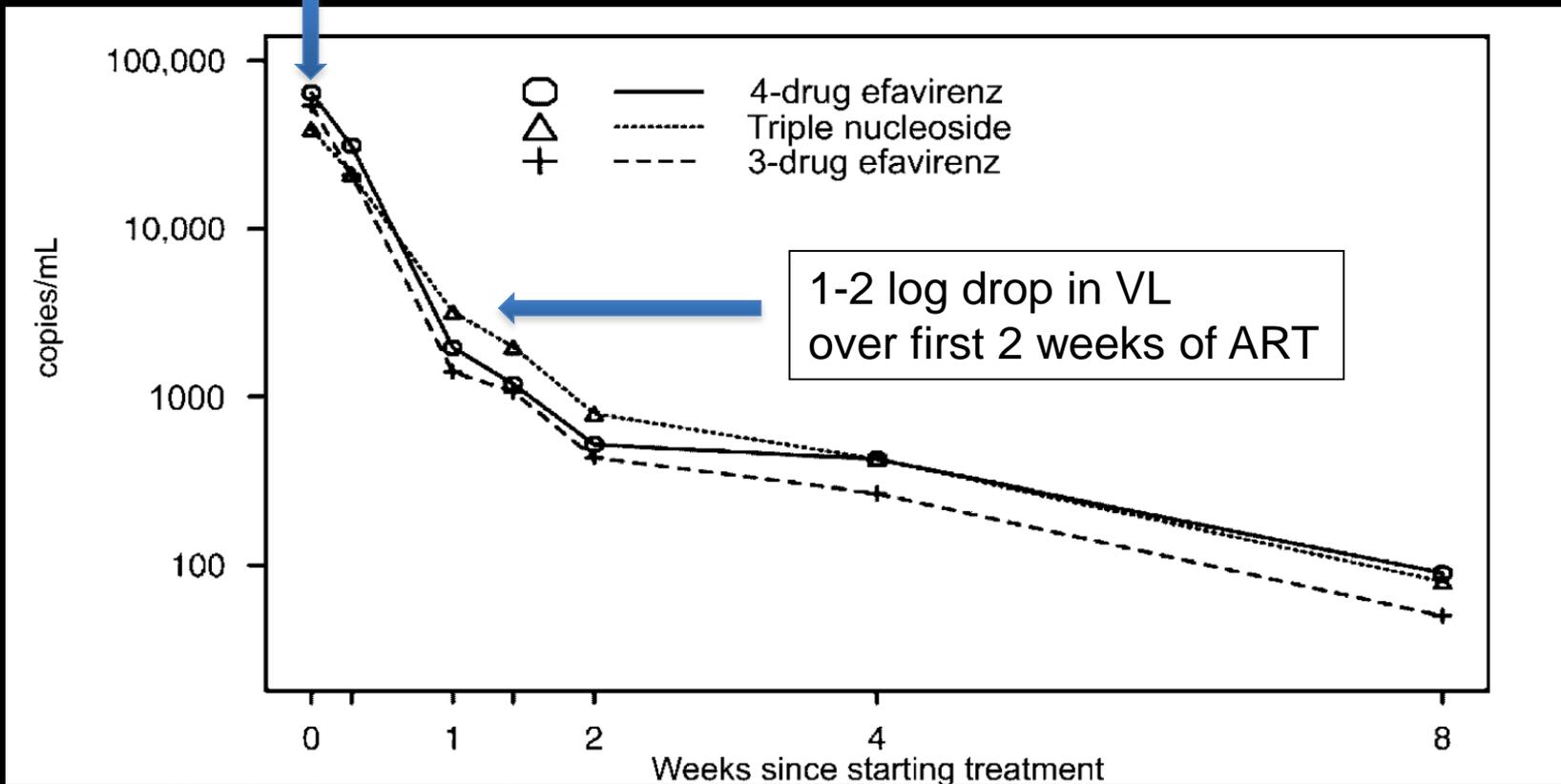
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# HIV viral load response to ART

ART commenced



Suppression of HIV replication on ART



Early reversal of immune suppression  
(systemically and at tissue level)



Inflammatory reactions



Targeted at TB antigens



IRIS = Immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome

Patients on  
TB treatment



Paradoxical  
TB-IRIS

Patients not on  
TB treatment



ART-associated TB

Unmasking TB-IRIS

# Paradoxical TB-IRIS characteristics

- Incidence 8 – 54% (15.7% in meta-analysis)
- Onset of symptoms: Median 14 days from ART start
- Hospitalisation in up to 48%
- Median duration
  - 2-3 months in literature
  - 69 days (IQR = 38-106) in our cohort studies (n=217)
- Mortality infrequent
  - Meta-analysis 3.2% (CNS TB-IRIS = 25-75%)

# Key points in TB-IRIS diagnosis

1. Diagnosis of TB confirmed or very likely?
2. Improvement on TB treatment prior to ART?
3. Symptom onset typically 1-4 weeks on ART
4. Deterioration with inflammatory features of TB
5. Consider and exclude differential diagnoses
6. Exclude drug-resistant TB

There is no confirmatory diagnostic test

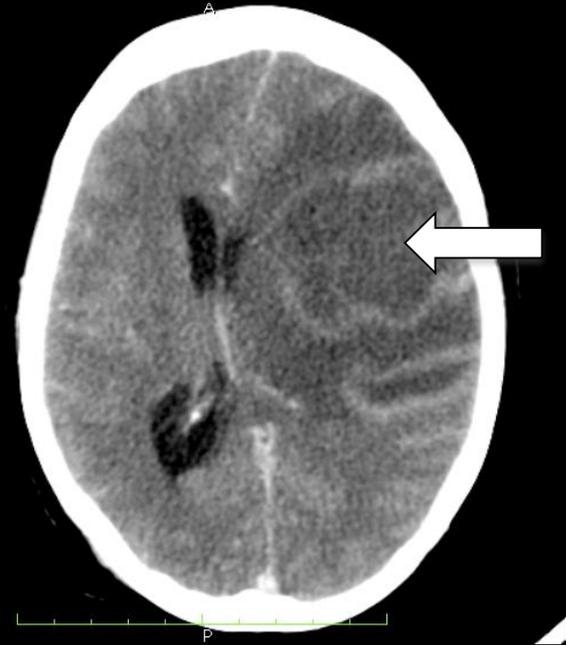
# Important differential diagnoses

Manifestation	Differential diagnoses
Lymph node enlargement	Kaposi's sarcoma Lymphoma
Pulmonary infiltrate	Bacterial pneumonia PCP Kaposi's sarcoma
Pleural effusion	Bacterial empyema Kaposi's sarcoma
Meningitis	Bacterial Cryptococcal
Space-occupying lesion	Toxoplasmosis Cryptococcoma Primary CNS lymphoma
Fever with general deterioration	Bacterial sepsis NTM Kaposi's or lymphoma

# Severity: wide spectrum



Recurrent fevers and  
night sweats



Fatal enlargement of cerebral tuberculoma  
complicated by cerebral oedema

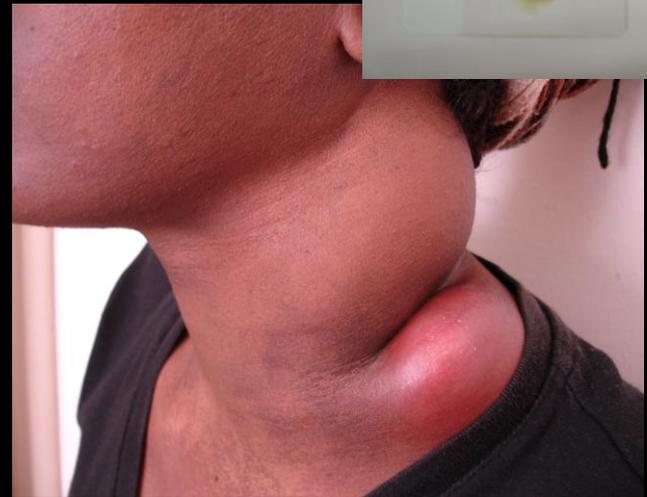
# Major TB-IRIS syndromes

1. Lymphadenitis
2. Pulmonary
3. Neurological
4. Abdominal
5. Serositis (effusions)
6. Features of systemic inflammation
  - High fevers, marked tachycardia, weight loss

83% multisystem manifestations in our cohort studies

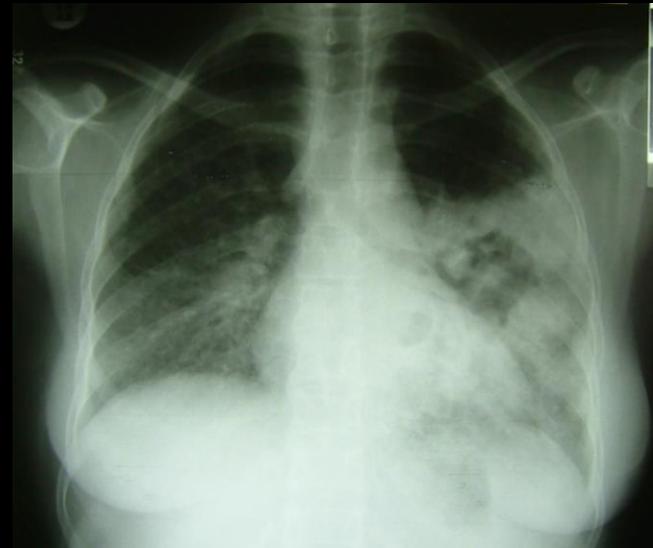
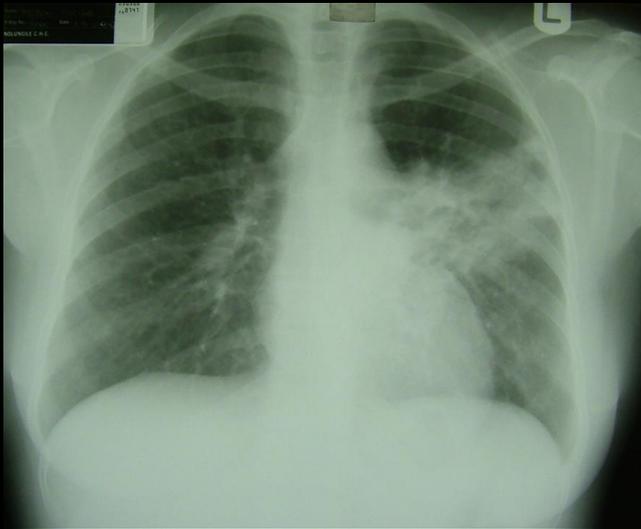
# Lymphadenitis

- 40% of TB-IRIS cases
- Prominent features of “acute inflammation”
- Typically suppurate within weeks
- Independent predictor of prolonged IRIS (>90 days)
  - aOR = 2.7 (95%CI = 1.3 -6.0)
- 6/217 patients in our cohort studies had IRIS > 365 days
  - typically suppurative lymphadenitis



# Pulmonary features

- 41% of TB-IRIS cases in our cohort studies



Recurrent cough, with worsening pulmonary infiltrate and cavitation

# Neurological TB-IRIS



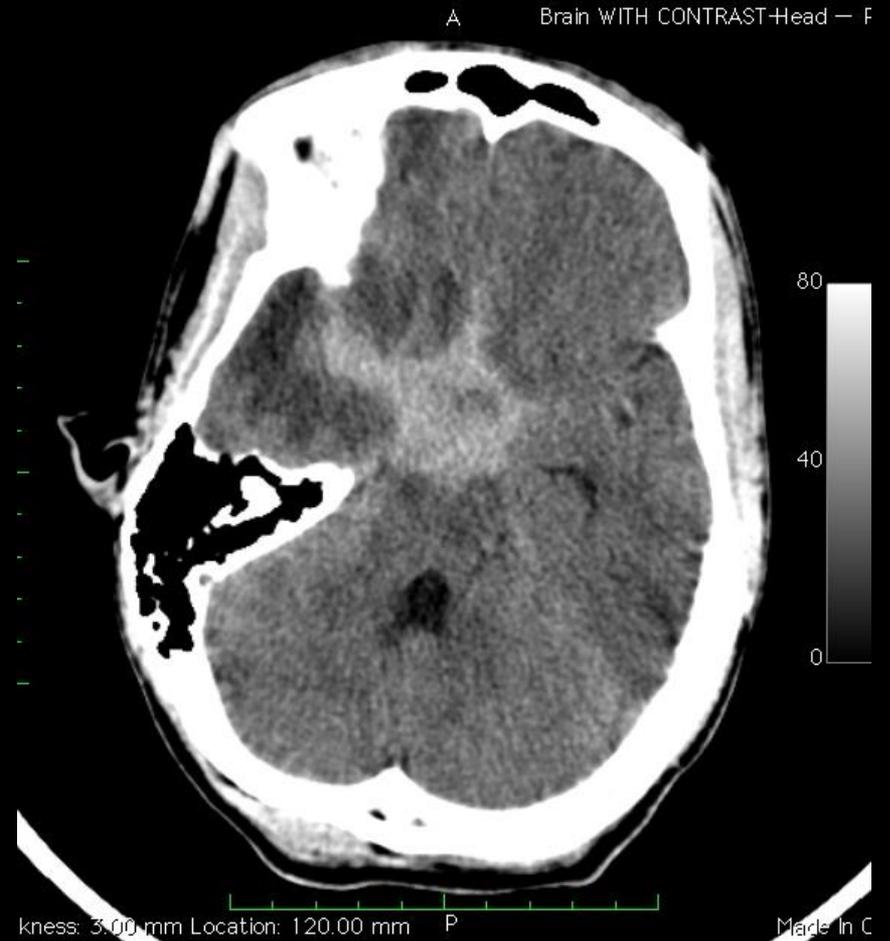
- 12% with paradoxical TB-IRIS have CNS involvement
- Up to 47% of TBM patients starting ART develop IRIS
- Features
  - Meningitis
  - Tuberculoma/s
  - Radiculomyelopathy
- Occurs in patients with or without CNS TB prior to ART
- Outcomes
  - 13% mortality and 18% loss to follow-up in one series
  - 25% and 75% mortality in other series
  - Neurological disability

Pepper et al, Clin Infect Dis 2009  
Marais et al, Clin Infect Dis 2012  
Agarwal et al, AIDS Res Ther 2012

# TBM diagnosis



# TBM-IRIS

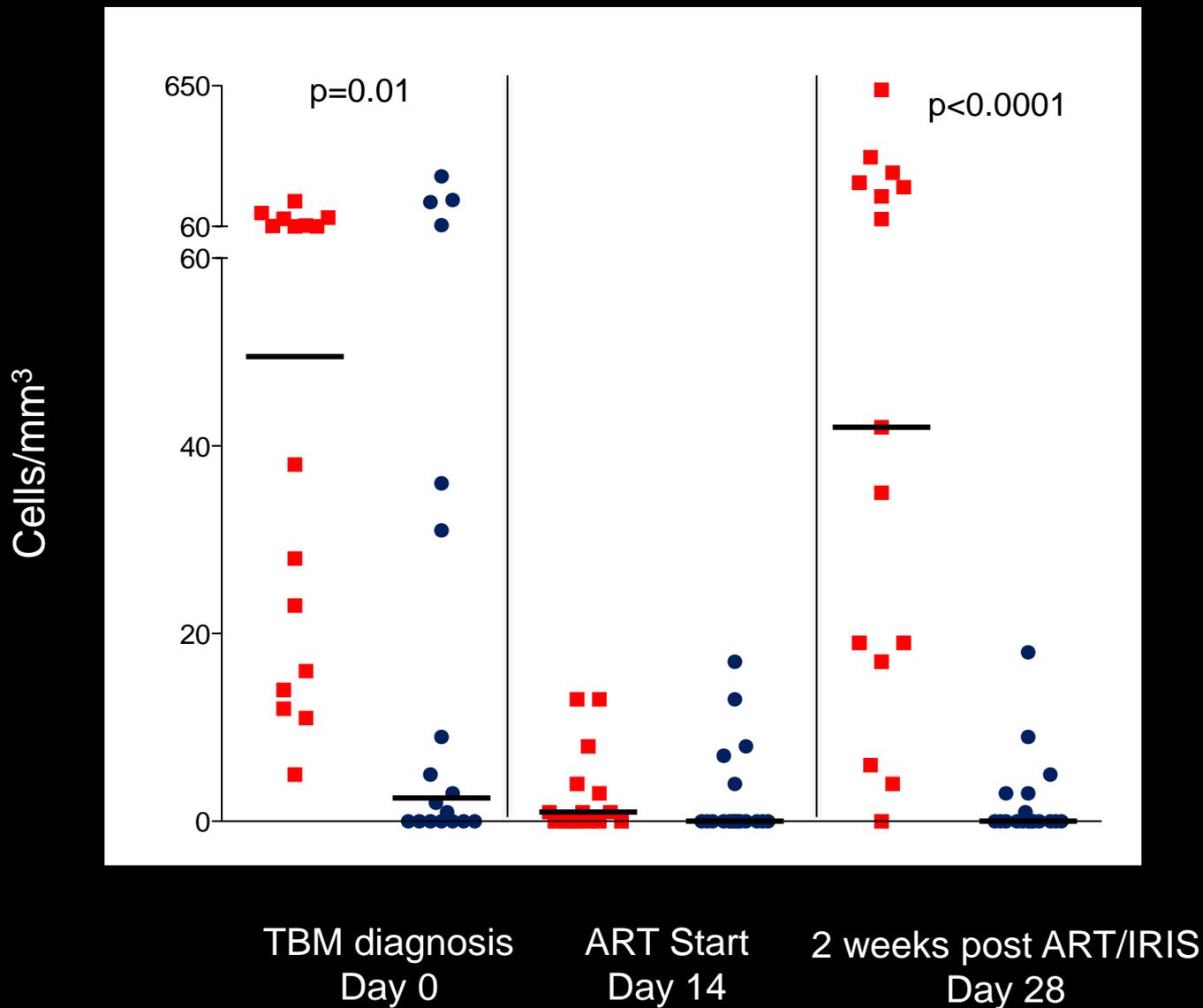


Slide courtesy Suzaan Marais

IRIS

Non  
IRIS

# CSF Neutrophils and TBM-IRIS



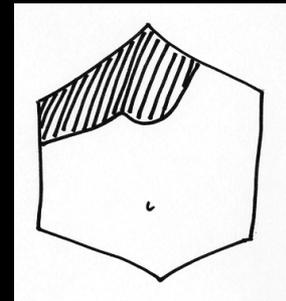
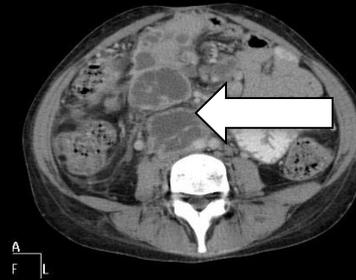
Marais  
CID 2012



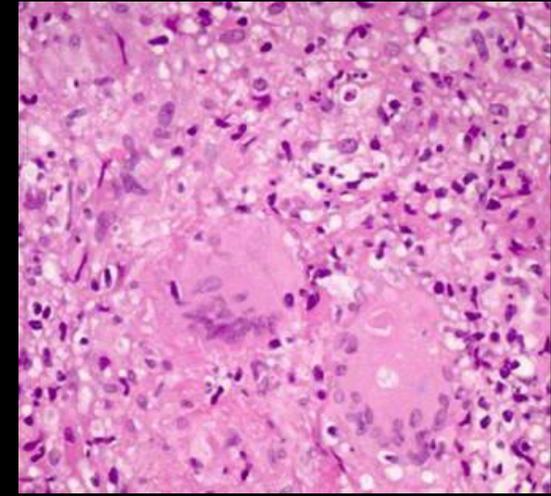
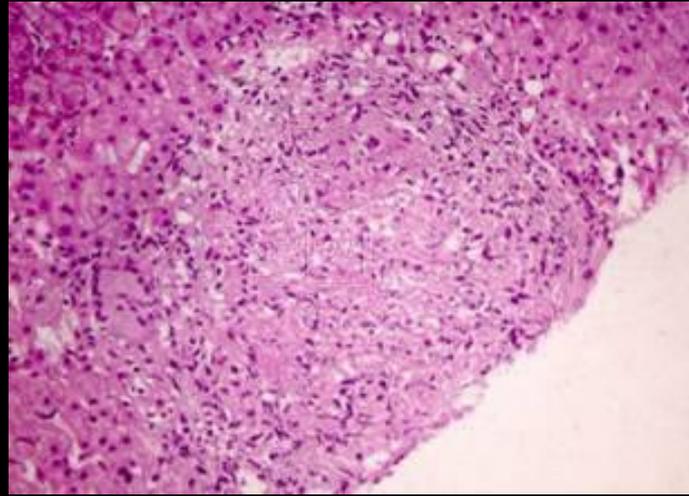
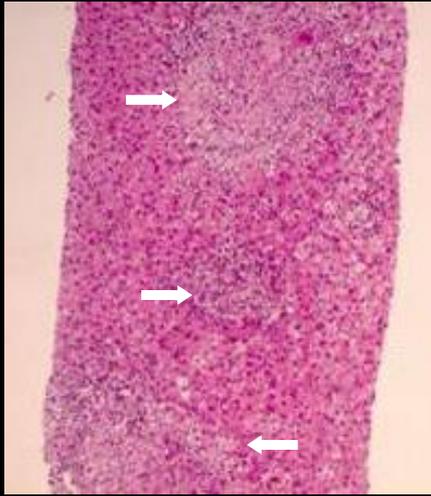
TBM and PTB prior to ART  
TB-IRIS with enlarging mass lesion/cerebral oedema  
Patient died

# Abdominal features

- Lymph node enlargement
- Abscess formation
- Peritonitis and ascites
- Liver involvement
- Splenic involvement and rupture
- Intestinal involvement
- Renal involvement



# Hepatic TB-IRIS case



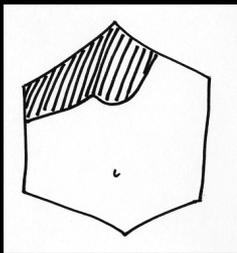
- 4 months treatment for drug-sensitive pericardial TB
- Clinically improved, then started ART
- 3 weeks later presented with fever and hepatomegaly
- LFT: Bil 52, CBil 31, Alk Phos 1081, GGT 1468, ALT 82, AST 88
- CD4 rise from 64 to 221
- Biopsy AFB- and TB culture -

Case courtesy of Mark Sonderup

# Hepatic TB-IRIS vs DILI

## Hepatic TB-IRIS

- RUQ pain, nausea and vomiting
- Tender hepatomegaly
- Cholestatic LFT derangement
- +/- mild jaundice
- Usually other TB-IRIS manifestations



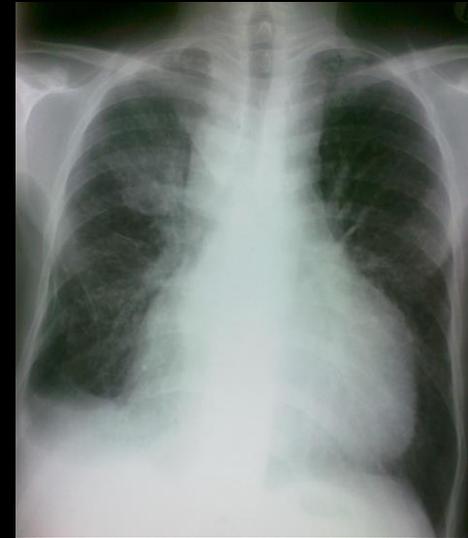
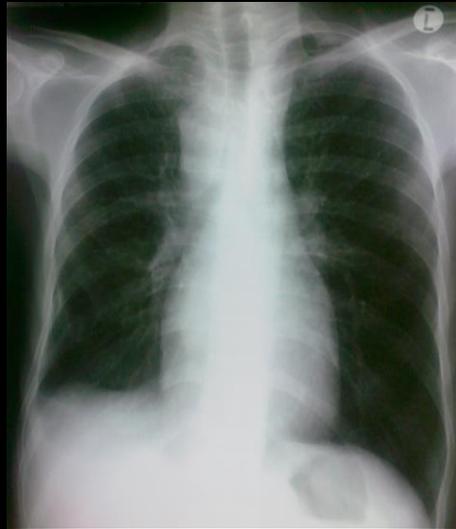
## Drug-induced liver injury

- Similar symptoms
- Typically not hepatomegaly
- Transaminitis +/- jaundice
- Absence of other TB-IRIS features

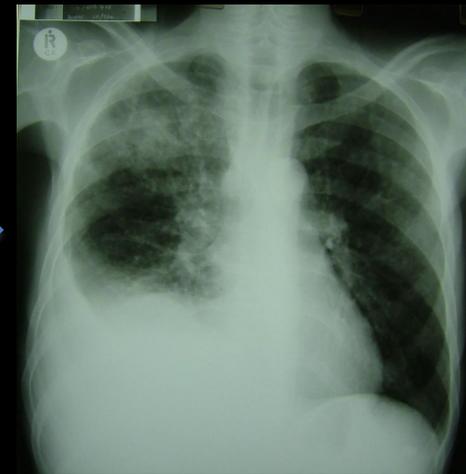
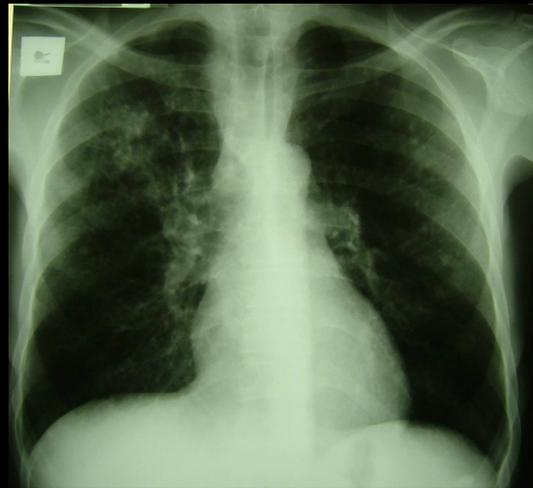
Patients may present with clinical picture between these two  
- Biopsy or treat as DILI

Two conditions may co-exist

Pericardial effusion  
with tamponade  
(1 litre drained)



New right pleural effusion



# Randomized placebo-controlled trial of prednisone for paradoxical tuberculosis-associated immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome

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Tolu Oni<sup>a,d</sup> and Gary Maartens<sup>a,g</sup>

- Rationale for steroid trial
  - Anecdotal reports of symptomatic response
  - Potential risks in patients with advanced HIV
- 110 participants (55 each arm)
- Life-threatening TB-IRIS was an exclusion
- Open-label prednisone at physician discretion if clinical deterioration/relapse

HIV-TB patients recently  
started ART with  
suspected TB-IRIS



Assessed using a clinical  
case definition for TB-IRIS  
and alternative diagnoses  
excluded



Inclusion criteria  
Informed consent  
Randomised



**Prednisone**

1.5mg/kg/day x 2 weeks  
0.75mg/kg/day x 2 weeks



**Identical placebo**

1.5mg/kg/day x 2 weeks  
0.75mg/kg/day x 2 weeks



Followed for a total of 12 weeks

Primary endpoint: Total number of days hospitalised + outpatients therapeutic procedures

Secondary endpoints included symptom score, CXR score and steroid side effects

# Primary endpoint

**Cumulative number of days hospitalized and outpatient  
therapeutic procedures (counted as 1 additional day), ITT analysis**

	Placebo arm N = 55	Prednisone arm N = 55	P-value
Total days hospitalized	463	282	-
Total number outpatient procedures	28	24	-
<b>Cumulative primary endpoint (median, IQR)</b>	<b>3 (0-9)</b>	<b>0 (0-3)</b>	<b>0.04</b>

**Significant reduction in morbidity associated with prednisone treatment**

# Secondary endpoints

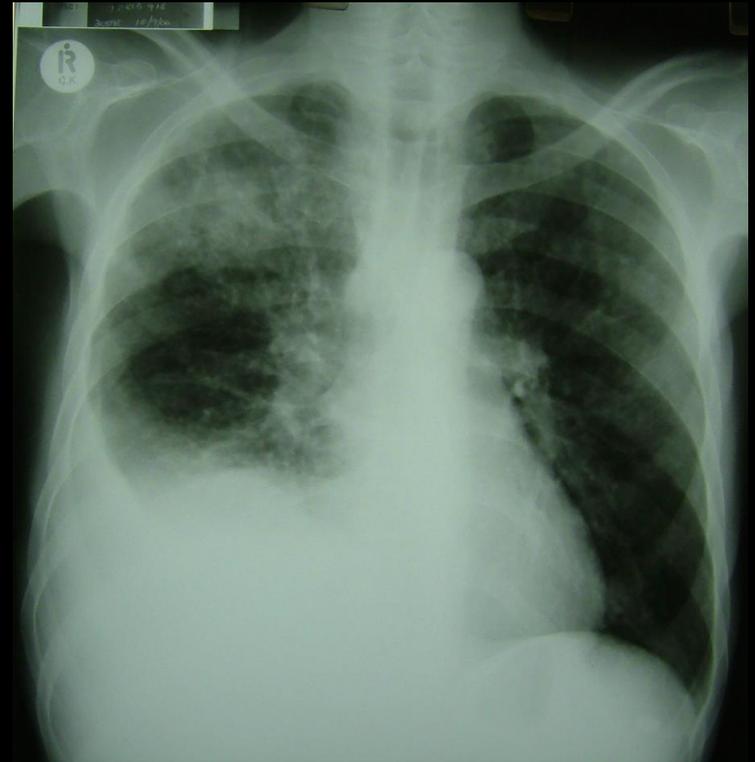
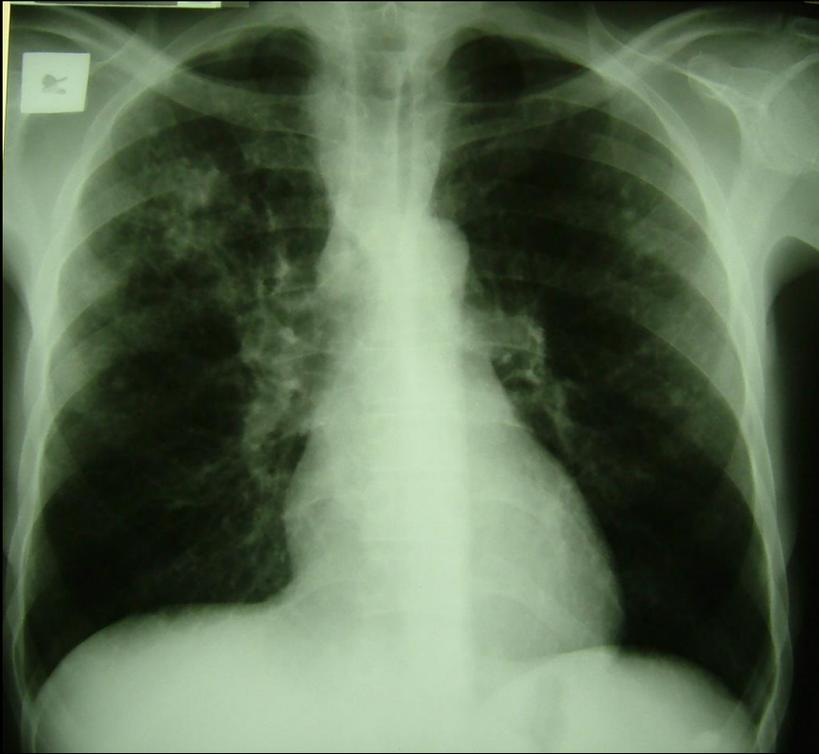
- Consistent benefit, maximal in first 4 weeks, across a range of secondary outcome measures
  - Symptom score
  - Karnofsky performance score
  - MOS-HIV questionnaire (quality of life assessment)
  - Chest radiology score
  - C-reactive protein
- 10/55 in prednisone arm relapsed after completing study drug and required re-initiation of prednisone
  - 4 weeks appeared to be too short for these patients

# Prednisone treatment for TB-IRIS

- No excess of severe infections or metabolic side effects with 4 week course of prednisone
- Based on these findings
  - If clinical diagnosis of TB-IRIS is made and other reasons for deterioration excluded
  - And symptoms are significant
  - Prednisone starting at 1.5mg/kg/d is indicated

# Steroids for TB-IRIS: other points

- Effective for symptom control
- In most cases unlikely to have survival benefit
  - Apart from neurological TB-IRIS
- Reasonable to defer steroids until sure of diagnosis
  - Exclude or treat for other possibilities
- Average duration of TB-IRIS is 2-3 months, but many cases shorter



**CASE:** 49 year old HIV+ man with CD4=29, diagnosed with drug-susceptible PTB. Started ART 2 weeks after TB treatment. 2 weeks later developed recurrent TB symptoms, worsening of pulmonary infiltrate and new pleural effusion.

**MANAGEMENT:** Antibiotic, aspiration of pleural effusion, prednisone. TB cultures of sputum and effusion were negative at TB-IRIS.

# Other management

- NSAID in milder cases
- Needle aspiration
  - Suppurative lymphadenitis/abscesses
  - Effusions
- ART interruption
  - CNS involvement with depressed level of consciousness

# Acknowledgements

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