

Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center's e-news
Informing the southeast region about TB-related resources and training opportunities

800-4TB-INFO • 24-Hour **HOTLINE**
352-265-7682 • SNTC Office
Se Habla Español

The focus of our April 2008 issue is our Medical Consultation Service.

Medical Consultation

Medical consultation represents one of the backbones of the services performed by physicians every day, and surprisingly, little is written about the art of medical consultation. At the SNTC, medical consultation plays a pivotal role in our region and we have identified the following as core elements for the consultations that we provide:

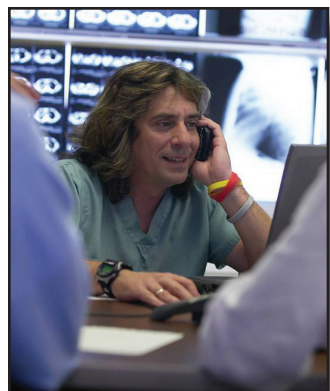
Rapid Response Times - The pace of medical practice is fast, and while there are few "TB emergencies," the delivery of good care is dependent on access to information by the treating physician and patient. As such our hotline functions **24 hours/day 7 days/week** to meet these needs. The service can be accessed by phone or from our website.

Evidence-Based Recommendations - that are frequently accompanied by references and copies of sentinel articles.

A Multidisciplinary Approach - There are times when cases demand complex decision-making in areas of quarantine, emerging drug resistance, drug intolerance, and mental health. In such instances we are proud to be able to enlist our team of expert lawyers, psychiatrists, social workers, pharmacists and TB medical experts to review certain cases together and provide multidisciplinary recommendations.

Unique Opportunity for Training and Education - We believe that case-based learning is the most effective tool in assisting and training medical TB consultants. Therefore, more than simply answering a question, we use each case as a chance to exchange information and provide additional education and training. In addition, calls are followed-up by a written summary of the consultation to further reinforce teaching points.

A Chance to Build Relationships - These exchanges are unique occasions for medical providers in the southeast to build professional relationships that are founded on trust, the sharing of knowledge, the preservation of privacy, and the promotion of altruism in medicine and public health.



Below are some examples of recent consult requests and responses. **We are honored to be able to serve our region in this way and we look forward to hearing from you in the future!**

Question 1 - The case is a young male who was recently diagnosed with pansensitive pulmonary TB and HIV infection. He was started on RIPE and approximately 6 weeks later, Atripla and Sustiva were initiated. He now presents with new fevers, worsening bilateral pulmonary infiltrates, evidence of hypoxemia (PO2 50) and liver transaminitis in the 200 range. His tuberculosis medications were stopped and he was admitted to the hospital. What do you recommend? **See the response provided by the consultant.**

Question 2 - A 45-year-old woman with a positive PPD is a recent arrival from Mexico. She was diagnosed with pericardial TB after a pericardial window was performed for the finding of a pericardial effusion. Specific diagnostic results are not available. How is pericardial TB managed? **See the response provided by the consultant.**

Question 3 - A 32-year-old woman from Panama was admitted to the hospital with a 2-week history of dry cough, pleuritic chest pain, fevers, and weight loss. She was found to have a right pleural effusion that required a thoracotomy for drainage, as it was loculated. Bacterial cultures were negative and she was sent home on abx. Her pleural fluid was smear negative for AFB but eventually grew out MTB and is pansensitive. At this time she appears to have completely recovered and is asymptomatic. My take on this is that she had primary tuberculosis and recovered without anti-TB medications but needs treatment anyway. I have her on 4 drugs and she promptly became ill with N, V abdo pain and diarrhea. She is currently on INH and RIF and doing well. My plan is to treat her for 9 months with these 2 drugs. What do you think? **See the response provided by the consultant.**

Upcoming Courses

May 6
TST Train-The-Trainer
Charleston, South Carolina

May 7
Keeping with the Pace: An HIV Update
University of Florida - Gainesville

TST Train-the-Trainer
Spartanburg, South Carolina

May 8
TST Train-the-Trainer
Raleigh, North Carolina

June 2-5
Comprehensive Clinical TB Course
Lantana, Florida

June 6
TST Train-the-Trainer
Lantana, Florida

June 24
Latent TB Infection: A Clinical Web-Based Educational Opportunity in Spanish
Web-Based ONLY

July 15-17
TB Program Management
Charlottesville, Virginia

August 26-28
TB in Corrections: Contact Investigation and Discharge Planning
Columbia, South Carolina

SNTC in ACTION

COMING TO YOUR STATE SOON

MAY
Florida
North Carolina
South Carolina

JUNE
Florida
Georgia

JULY
Virginia

AUGUST
South Carolina

Newsy Bytes

Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis: A Survival Guide for Clinicians, 2nd ed.

Originally released in 2004, this joint publication of the CNTC and the TB Control Branch of the California Department of Public Health, contains a host of information and tools for clinicians participating in the management of drug-resistant patients. This publication is an essential tool for the clinician and this second edition is **now available**.

TB Lab Training Assessment

The four RTMCCs and the CDC are interested in learning about the training needs you have related to laboratory and diagnostic services. Start thinking now about suggested content of trainings and the types of educational products that you think would be most beneficial to your program. You will soon have the opportunity to participate in the web-based assessment.



Contact the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center (SNTC)

The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center is one of four Regional Training and Medical Consultation Centers (RTMCCs) funded by the CDC. The SNTC seeks to address the training, education, medical consultation, and technical assistance needs of healthcare providers and TB programs in 11 southeastern states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Medical Consultation HOTLINE - 800-4TB-INFO

We need your input and ideas . . . Please help us serve you better by giving us feedback and suggestions on our e-newsletter. We welcome your comments and ask that you send them to sntc@medicine.ufl.edu

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