



Mycobacterium tuberculosis

- acid fast bacillus
- exposure may result in:
 - (i) immediate clearance
 - (ii) primary tuberculosis with Ghon's focus and complex
 - (iii) chronic tuberculosis without disease
 - (iv) secondary tuberculosis from reactivation (miliary Tb & disseminated disease)

Mycobacterium avium complex

- acid fast bacillus
- in immunocompromised patients causes disseminated infection of leukocytes, liver, spleen, lymph nodes and GI tract

treatment

1. pulmonary Tb:
 - resistance to isoniazid and rifampicin is increasing
 - a standard course of therapy is isoniazid (with pyridoxine) & rifampicin for six months plus ethambutol and pyrazinamide for 2 months
2. Mycobacterium avium complex:
 - treated with clarithromycin or azithromycin plus ethambutol or rifabutin

risk factors

- Living in or originating from a developing country
- Age (<5 years, middle-aged and elderly men)
- Alcoholism and/or drug addiction
- HIV infection
- Diabetes mellitus
- Lodging house dwellers
- Immunosuppression
- Close contact with smear positive patients
- Silicosis
- Poverty and/or malnutrition
- Previous gastrectomy
- Smoking