

# Radiological Diagnosis

## Diagnosis of the case presented in the previous edition

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### NONTUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIOSIS



Some nontuberculous *Mycobacterium* species can also cause pulmonary diseases, often in forms indistinguishable from those caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Among the principal nontuberculous *Mycobacterium* species are the *M. avium intracellulare* complex, *M. kansasii* and *M. xenopi*. Of these, infections caused by the *M. avium intracellulare* complex are becoming increasingly more common, particularly in patients with cellular immunodeficiency or chronic pulmonary diseases. Such infections are more frequently seen in patients who are elderly, white and female.

The characteristics of the radiological findings in relation to those of tuberculosis include:

1. As for the extent of parenchymal involvement, cavitation appears earlier and the walls may be thinner and surrounded by less affected parenchyma;

2. The anterior segments of the superior lobes, and, primarily, the middle lobe and the lingula, are more frequently involved;
3. Pleural effusion is rare and, when present, is minimal;
4. Lymph node enlargement is uncommon;
5. The principal findings are opacities circumscribed by irregular translucent areas, nodules and bronchiectasis.

### REFERENCES

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