What could be worse than having NTM?

Not knowing you have NTM.

THINK NTM

• Nontuberculous mycobacterial (NTM) lung disease is a chronic, debilitating condition that can significantly increase patient morbidity and mortality 1–5.

• Patients with preexisting chronic respiratory problems such as bronchiectasis, COPD, or asthma, are at a higher risk for getting NTM 6.

° Patients with susceptibility factors, such as these underlying lung conditions, who present with pulmonary (eg, chronic cough) and nonspecific systemic symptoms (eg, malaise or fever) should be assessed for NTM 7–8.

TEST FOR NTM

• The signs and symptoms for preexisting lung conditions overlap with those of NTM, which may delay diagnosis. In fact, approximately 2/3 of patients have moderate to severe NTM by the time they are diagnosed 4,7–9,12.

• Clinical, radiographic, and microbiologic criteria are all recommended by the ATS/IDSA Statement for diagnosing NTM lung disease 1.

TREAT NTM

• Effective disease management requires the correct identification of NTM species and subspecies, the use of current guidelines, and effective airway clearance techniques 1,13–16.

• The ATS/IDSA Statement defines treatment success as sustained culture conversion, improved symptoms, and achieved radiologic improvement 1.

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