

TB the Great Mimicker

Prof Dr Bernard F. Laya

St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippines.

Tuberculosis (TB) is a global health concern, particularly in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. In 2015 alone, an estimated 10.4 million people developed TB worldwide, 11% of whom have human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) co-infection. At least 1 million children fall ill with TB each year representing about 11% of all TB cases. An estimated 1.4 million died from tuberculosis in 2015, approximately 210,000 are children, making tuberculosis one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide.

Intrathoracic TB, including lung and lymph node disease are common manifestation of the disease in children. Other forms affect the central nervous system, gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary tree, urinary and musculoskeletal systems. Although there are certain imaging features, which are likely representative of TB disease, it is not uncommon that TB can mimic other disease entities, particularly other infections and neoplastic processes, which can prolong or even complicate diagnoses. In this short presentation, imaging manifestations of TB in various organ systems will be presented, with special emphasis on findings that may mimic other disease entities.