

**Table 2 Comparison of the characteristics of 252 pulmonary tuberculosis patients who were diagnosed in Malatya, 2017–2021**

Characteristic	Pre-pandemic year			Pandemic year	P-value
	2017	2018	2019	2020–2021	
<b>Age (years): median (min–max), IQR</b>	52 (17–85), 51.5	50 (13–86), 48.5	46 (12–90), 43	51 (17–88), 43.5	0.310 <sup>a</sup>
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)	
<b>Sex</b>					
Female	20 (29.9)	29 (46.8)	27 (38.0)	20 (38.5)	0.271 <sup>b</sup>
Male	47 (70.1)	33 (53.2)	44 (62.0)	32 (61.5)	
<b>AFB microscopy</b>					
Negative	23 (34.3)	30 (48.4)	35 (49.3)	13 (25.0)	0.001 <sup>b</sup>
1+	33 (49.3)	27 (43.5)	20 (28.2)	7 (13.5)	
2+	5 (7.5)	3 (4.8)	9 (12.7)	5 (9.6)	
3+	2 (3.0)	1 (1.6)	4 (5.6)	11 (21.2)	
4+	4 (6.0)	1 (1.6)	3 (4.2)	16 (30.8)	
<b>Basis of diagnosis</b>					
Laboratory-based	58 (86.6)	51 (82.3)	58 (81.7)	48 (92.3)	0.345 <sup>b</sup>
Clinical	9 (13.4)	11 (17.7)	13 (18.3)	4 (7.7)	
<b>Recurrence</b>					
New case	61 (91.0)	58 (93.5)	66 (93.0)	42 (80.8)	0.022 <sup>b</sup>
Relapse	6 (9.0)	4 (6.5)	5 (7.0)	10 (19.2)	
Hospitalized patients	20 (29.9)	22 (35.5)	29 (41.4)	21 (40.4)	0.499 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Treatment process</b>					
Patients for whom treatment initiation delayed > 7 days	7 (10.4)	5 (8.1)	6 (8.5)	14 (26.9)	0.007 <sup>b</sup>
Treatment failure <sup>c</sup>	1 (1.9)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.9)	7 (17.0)	0.018 <sup>c</sup>
<b>Outcome</b>					
Mortality during treatment	5 (7.5)	8 (12.9)	5 (7.0)	7 (13.5)	0.338 <sup>b</sup>
	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
Duration of hospitalization (days)	2.55 (7.26)	3.02 (6.34)	1.92 (3.74)	4.48 (8.81)	0.534 <sup>b</sup>

IQR = interquartile range. AFB = acid-fast bacilli. SD = standard deviation. <sup>a</sup>Kruskal–Wallis H test. <sup>b</sup>Pearson chi-square test. <sup>c</sup>This analysis included the patients who were able to complete a 6-month TB treatment regime, therefore, the patients who were diagnosed clinically or died before the treatment conclusion were excluded.