

**Table 1 Comparison of 3 lines of treatment for tuberculous pleural effusion (size of pleural effusion before treatment and pleural thickening at the end of treatment)**

Variable	Anti-TB alone <sup>a</sup>		Treatment With steroid <sup>b</sup>		With paracentesis <sup>c</sup>		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.
<i>Size of pleural effusion before treatment<sup>d</sup></i>							
Severe	8	12.1	13	28.3	31	39.7	52
Moderate	23	34.8	18	39.1	13	16.7	54
Mild	35	53.0	15	32.6	34	43.6	84
<i>Pleural thickening after 6 months treatment<sup>d</sup></i>							
Severe	2	3.0	0	–	2	2.6	4
Moderate	4	6.1	0	–	3	3.8	7
Mild	12	18.2	17 <sup>e</sup>	37.0	11 <sup>e</sup>	14.1	40
Obliteration of costophrenic angle	43	65.2	16 <sup>e</sup>	34.7	59 <sup>e</sup>	75.6	118
Normal chest X-ray	5	7.6	13 <sup>e</sup>	28.3	3 <sup>e</sup>	3.8	21
<i>Total</i>	66		46		78		190

<sup>a</sup>Mean age 30 (standard deviation 12.5) years.

<sup>b</sup>Mean age 34 (standard deviation 11.4) years.

<sup>c</sup>Mean age 28 (standard deviation 10.6) years.

<sup>d</sup>Severe:  $\geq 2/3$  of the hemithorax; moderate:  $> 1/3$  but  $< 2/3$ ; mild:  $\leq 1/3$ .

<sup>e</sup>P-value  $> 0.05$  (compared with anti-TB drugs alone).