77 year old female presents with persistent cough, shortness of breath, weight loss, and anorexia

Lyubina Yankova, MS
Aladdin Tarakji, M.D.
History of Present Illness

PMH of recurrent MAC, bronchiectasis, breast cancer, afib, HTN, HLD, CAD, COPD

Patient coming in now with worsening shortness of breath, persistent cough, weight loss, and anorexia

Exam: Diffuse crackles on lung exam
New inflammatory nodules from recurrent Mycobacterium avium
New inflammatory nodules in the left lower lobe
New inflammatory nodules in the right lobe
Diagnosis

- Mycobacterium avium pulmonary infection
- Likely from municipal water sources
- Symptoms: cough, fatigue, weakness, malaise, dyspnea, chest discomfort, hemoptysis, fever, weight loss (but less severe than TB)
- Usually occurs in concurrence with existing lung conditions such as COPD or bronchiectasis
- Radiologically looks like TB with upper lobe infiltrates and cavitary lesions
- Clinical AND microbiological criteria required for diagnosis:
  - Clinical: 1. pulm sx, or cavitary or nodular opacities on CT or multiple nodules with multiple locations of bronchiectasis, AND 2. other dx excluded
  - Microbiological: positive culture or histopathologic features
References

