

1 **COVID-19 and chronic diabetes: The perfect storm for reactivation TB?**

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14 **Abstract**

15 **Background:** The Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is predicted to have a net
16 negative effect on tuberculosis (TB) control, with an estimated excess of 6.3 million tuberculosis
17 cases and 1.4 million deaths by 2025. Programmatic issues like the lockdown of TB services affect
18 all patients, while biosocial factors have a differential impact on an individual's risk for TB or
19 adverse TB outcomes. **Case presentation:** We report three cases of incident TB after resolution
20 of COVID-19 episodes. Coincidentally, all cases shared a common risk factor: a chronic history
21 poorly-controlled diabetes. **Conclusions:** Our findings alert to the threat posed by the synergy
22 between COVID-19 and diabetes, on TB reactivation. In medium- to high-risk settings for TB, we
23 recommend implementation of routine screening for latent TB infection in these cases, and
24 preventive TB treatment in those who are positive.

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26 **Keywords:** tuberculosis; COVID-19; SARS-CoV-2; diabetes mellitus; type 2 diabetes; diagnostic
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