tribution of HIV-1 subtypes and segregation of these subtypes among the different risk groups in Yangon (Lower Myanmar). Forty plasma samples were collected from 3 different risk groups: 10 from heterosexual male, 10 from heterosexual female, 12 from commercial sex workers (CSWs) and 8 from injecting drug users (IDUs) during 2000—2003. The viral RNA from plasma samples of 40 Western-blott confirmed HIV-infected individuals were extracted. These purified viral RNAs were then amplified by Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and subsequently by nested (second round) PCR with the primers for *gag* (p24) region. The reference plasmid DNAs were also amplified by nested PCR with the primers for *gag* (p24) region. Out of 40 samples, only 22 samples were amplified by *gag* (p24) PCR allowing subsequent subtype determination. HIV-1 subtype of 22 samples were determined by HIV -1 *Gag* (p24) HMA. Of the 22 samples, 9 (40.9%) were subtype C, 5 (22.7%) were subtype B' (Thai B cluster within Subtype B), 2 (9.1%) were subtype E (CRF 01-AE), 2 (9.1%) were subtype A and 4 (18.2%) were untypable. Sequencing is normally recommended for these untypeable samples. From this study, HIV-1 *gag* subtypes C was newly discovered in Yangon (Lower Myanmar) samples for the first time, but previously found in Mandalay (Central Myanmar) since 2000. Subtype C was most commonly found (9 out of 22) in our study and was more predominant in the heterosexual group. In fact, this study is the pioneer ones in Myanmar to apply the HMA technique in our own laboratory setting. The *gag* subtype A and E was detected only among persons presumably infected sexually and the subtype B' and C were found in both IDUs and persons with sexual exposure. If possible, further confirmation of these subtypes by sequencing should be done. Out of 40 samples non-amplifiable 18 samples were subsequently amplified with second primer set for *gag* (p 17) region. Only 4 samples amplified but not classified into subtypes due to the limitation of facilities (lack of the corresponding reference plasmids for *gag* (p 17) region). So, transfer of HIV-1 *gag*/*env* HMA technology to the developing countries contributes to more accurate estimations of the prevalence of HIV-1 subtypes and intersubtype recombinants and segregation of these subtypes in different risk groups in those parts of the world where the technology for sequencing is not readily available.

Clinical Mycobacterial Infections & Treatment (Poster Presentation)

42.001

Abdominal Tuberculosis in the Golestan Province-Iran

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Keywords: Tuberculosis; Extra Pulmonary Tuberculosis; Gastrointestinal Tuberculosis; Golestan; Iran

Background and objectives: Various studies demonstrated that 15—20% of TB cases are extra pulmonary tuberculosis tified all GI TB cases in Golestan province (Iran) to determine their demographic characteristics.

Methods: We reviewed all new cases of TB, reported between 1999 and 2003 from TB centers of Golestan. Then we selected EPTB and especially GITB cases from the list. Looking up the addresses in the patients' charts, we completed a questionnaire containing demographic information. The information entered in SPSS-13 and data was analyzed with appropriate tests.

Results: 30 patients had been treated for GITB, most of them were women (22 cases, 73.3%). Mean age was 32.03 ± 13.73, with higher incidence in age before 40 years old (70%). 66.7% of patients had documented pathologically diagnosis.

Conclusions: Data suggest that 38.46% of all TB cases in Golestan province were EPTB. This percentage is higher than other studies. In this study, GI TB cases were higher than the world reports (3%). These results should be mentioned by physicians and healthcare providers in this area and considered in programs of disease controlling and preventing centers.

42.002

Mycobacterial Dermal Lesions of Children in Bam's Earthquake and Determination of their Antibiotic Resistance and Susceptibility

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Keywords: Dermal lesion; Mycobacterium; Earthquake

Background: The Bam earthquake in southeastern Iran turned an ancient city to dust, killing thousands and destroying 80% of all infrastructure. The earthquake in Bam, Iran killed more than 30,000 people on December 26, 2003. It left some 100,000 people homeless. Direct contact with polluted water increases the risk of infection, particularly wound infections, cellulitis, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose and throat infections. Although these types of infections are usually not epidemic, the prevalence and incidence of the NTM (Non tuberculosis mycobacteria) are difficult to characterize infection, due to the NTM rarely reported to public health departments. They affect immune-competent, immune-compromised persons and who has been affected of disasters especially children. The aim of this study was isolation of bacteria and mycobacterial agents, especially atypical species from dermal lesions of children in Bam's earthquake and determination of their antibiotic resistance and susceptibility.

Method & Matherial: In this descriptive study, 88 children of Bam who suffered from the earthquake and settled in camps in 2004 have been studied. The samples from dermal lesions of children were taken and transported media (middle brook 7H9) and Brain Heart (BH) to laboratory for isolation of mycobacterial agents and other bacteria. For Isolation of mycobacterium, after decontam-