

## **Histomorphological Spectrum of Gastrointestinal Tuberculosis**

Ashok Kumar Malik, MD, MNAMS, FRCPath\*  
Lily Pal, MD\*\* Wig JD, MS, FRCS\*\*\*

**Objective:** To study histomorphologic changes in Gastrointestinal Tuberculosis (GITB) and to determine the frequency of Primary versus Secondary TB. To determine the frequency of different group of lymphnodes involvement.

**Methods:** A study of 40 resected and autopsy specimens over 6 years period was undertaken in the Department of Pathology. Blocks from formaline fixed specimens of involved bowel and lymph nodes were processed, embedded, cut (5-6 micron thick) and stained with Haematoxylin -Eosin for light microscopy.

**Results:** Primary intestinal tuberculosis was rare at autopsy (only 2/20 cases). Majority of cases were secondary to pulmonary involvement (17/20 cases). Ulcerative type (77.5%) was the commonest morphologic type with predominant involvement of ileum. Appendix (5%) and Stomach (2.5%) were rarely involved. At autopsy, mesenteric lymphadenopathy (80%) was noted to be the commonest, followed by tracheo-bronchial group of lymph nodes (27.5%). Retroperitoneal lymph nodes were rarely involved.

**Conclusion:** Incidence of Gastrointestinal Tuberculosis (GITB) at autopsy was found to be 0.68 %. Overall, secondary form of GITB was the commonest. Associated TB in the mesenteric lymph nodes was frequent.