

# Sputum bacteriology of patients with acute exacerbations of bronchiectasis

Dear Editor,

We read the publication on “Effect of sputum bacteriology on the prognosis of patients with acute exacerbations of bronchiectasis in the intensive care unit (ICU)” with great interest.<sup>[1]</sup> Ciftci *et al.* concluded that “Positive bacterial examination of sputum is the most important prognostic factor for patients with bronchiectasis exacerbation admitted to the ICU.<sup>[1]</sup>” We agree that sputum bacteriology is an important tool for determination of infection among the patients. Nevertheless, whether it is the most important prognostic factor should be discussed. The good clinical management and infectious control in the ICU are required and if the procedure is good performed, the infection should not occur. The prognosis of the patient might relate to other factors such as physiological (genetic, age, sex, etc.) and pathological concurrent personnel illness) backgrounds.<sup>[2]</sup> Finally, the quality control of the sputum bacteriology test is required.<sup>[3]</sup> The contamination might occur and lead to false result. In the setting with poor infection control process, not only the nosocomial infection but also contamination in clinical specimen can occur.

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## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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