Clin. Lab. 2026;72:1-2

CASE REPORT

Severe Pneumonia Due to *Tropheryma Whipplei* Infection Complicated by Tuberculosis and COVID-19

Jian Ma [1], Xiao-Hong Pan [2], Jun-Ke Qiu [2], Shi-En Huang [1]

[1] *Department of Emergency Medicine, Zhejiang Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China*
[2] *Tuberculosis ICU, Tuberculosis Diagnosis and Treatment Center of Zhejiang Province, Zhejiang Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China*

ABSTRACT

Background: ***Tropheryma whipplei*** **is a rare cause of pneumonia, but its detection has increased in clinical practice.**
Methods: **We report a severe case of** ***T. whipplei*** **pneumonia complicated by** ***Mycobacterium tuberculosis*** **and SARS-CoV-2 co-infections in a 21-year-old man presenting with acute respiratory failure, ARDS, and septic shock.**
Results: **mNGS of bronchoalveolar lavage fluid rapidly identified** ***T. whipplei*** **and** ***M. tuberculosis*****, enabling timely targeted therapy with ceftriaxone, anti-tuberculosis treatment, and antivirals for COVID-19. The patient recovered after prolonged hospitalization.**
Conclusions: **This case underscores the diagnostic value of mNGS in complex mixed infections and highlights the need for optimized treatment strategies for** ***T. whipplei*** **pneumonia.**
(Clin. Lab. 2026;72:1-2. DOI: 10.7754/Clin.Lab.2025.251147)

Correspondence:
Shi-En Huang
Department of Emergency Medicine
Zhejiang Hospital of
Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine
Hangzhou
Zhejiang, 310013
China
Email: 13819166716@163.com

Case Report accepted December 4, 2025

Supplementary Data

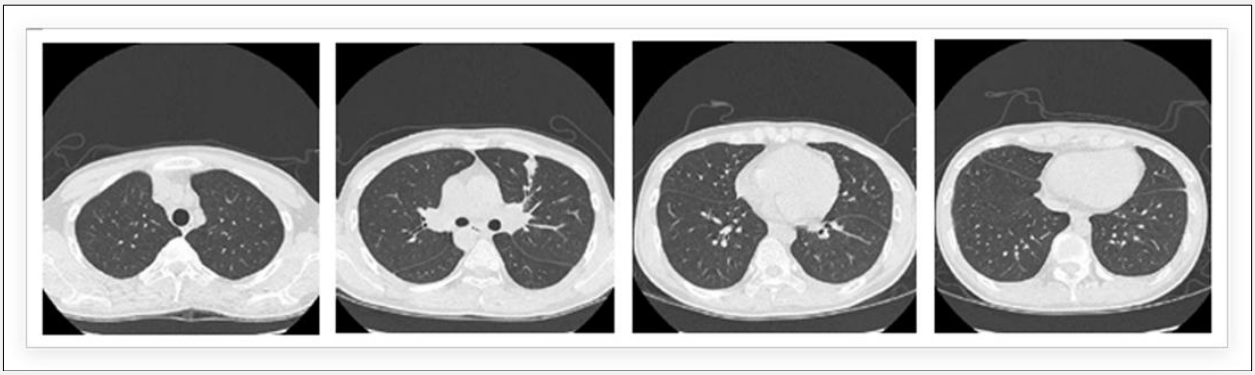

Figure S1. Chest CT (Oct 31, 2023) revealed scattered nodular and patchy high-attenuation opacities in both lungs, most prominently in the right upper lobe, with relatively well-defined margins.

Multiple enlarged mediastinal lymph nodes were also observed.