

[NO SPEECH]

PATRICK FLUME, MD: Lung disease due to nontuberculous mycobacteria, or NTM, is not a new phenomenon but it is certainly one that is of increasing importance. We have seen, in epidemiological studies, a growing number of patients identified with lung disease. Some have questioned about whether this is because there are more persons at risk, and more susceptible, and we're actually seeing an increase in the prevalence of disease. While others have suggested it is actually just a greater awareness of the problem, and the greater use of high resolution CT scanning.

And so people are cognizant of this and being more forward trying to make a diagnosis. In any case, we're seeing growing number of patients who have nontuberculous mycobacteria and lung disease. Most of these patients are older. They are more predominantly female, but we do see patients with a broad range of age and underlying conditions. There are many people who it's not surprising that they have and lung disease, because they have an other lung condition that would make them more vulnerable.

An easy example is our cystic fibrosis population. But then, there are a large subset of patients in whom we don't have any specifically defined cause for make them vulnerable to the condition. And the most stereotypical group would be the postmenopausal female. We seem to have a preponderance of patients who fit that model and have nodular disease, recurring cough. And so there is a greater awareness of that patient population and easier threshold to go get high resolution CT scanning.