

SPEAKER: In terms of microbiology, we work very hard to get samples to understand that they, in fact, do have NTM lung disease. Sputum samples are the easiest to obtain, but there are patients who may not produce sputum readily in the clinic, or they may not produce sputum at all. The couple of ways that which we deal with this, number one is we will induce sputum using nebulized hypertonic saline in the clinic to promote cough and collect a good specimen that we can send to the laboratory. Or we will send sputum cups home with our patients in which they can collect sputum if there is a time of day in which they are more productive and can get that to the laboratory. The fresher the better.