

SPEAKER 1: I think two of the greatest challenges in managing this disease are the breadth of the clinical symptoms that can occur in patients with pulmonary NTM disease, and certainly the non-specific nature of those symptoms. So getting back to the breadth of symptoms, our patients, the common symptoms are to have a chronic cough. That's with or without sputum production. Fatigue happens to be a very common symptom that our patient struggle with. Fevers and chills, night sweats and weight loss, are all constitutional symptoms that can also be associated with chronic NTM lung disease, but importantly, these symptoms are quite indolent and most of our patients have had symptoms for months to years, before they're actually diagnosed. And it's quite shocking to patients then we tell them that they've been struggling with a chronic pneumonia for years, that has not been diagnosed. And as you can see from what I just described, a lot of those symptoms can be attributed to other chronic pulmonary conditions like asthma, COPD, and bronchiectasis. So it really takes the astute clinician to take into account those symptoms, and order the correct imaging which is a CAT scan of the chest, which will then show the features NTM pulmonary disease to provoke then, what is considered the gold standard for diagnosis including sputum sampling.