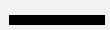


REFRAMING DIRECTLY OBSERVED TREATMENT

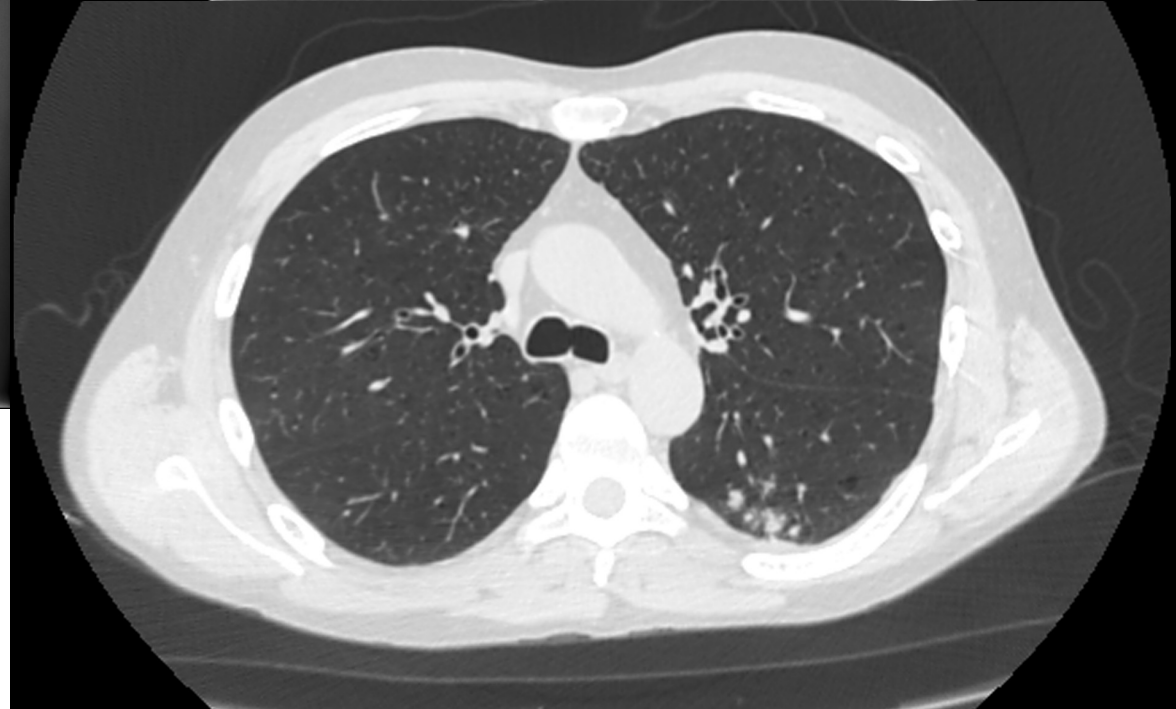
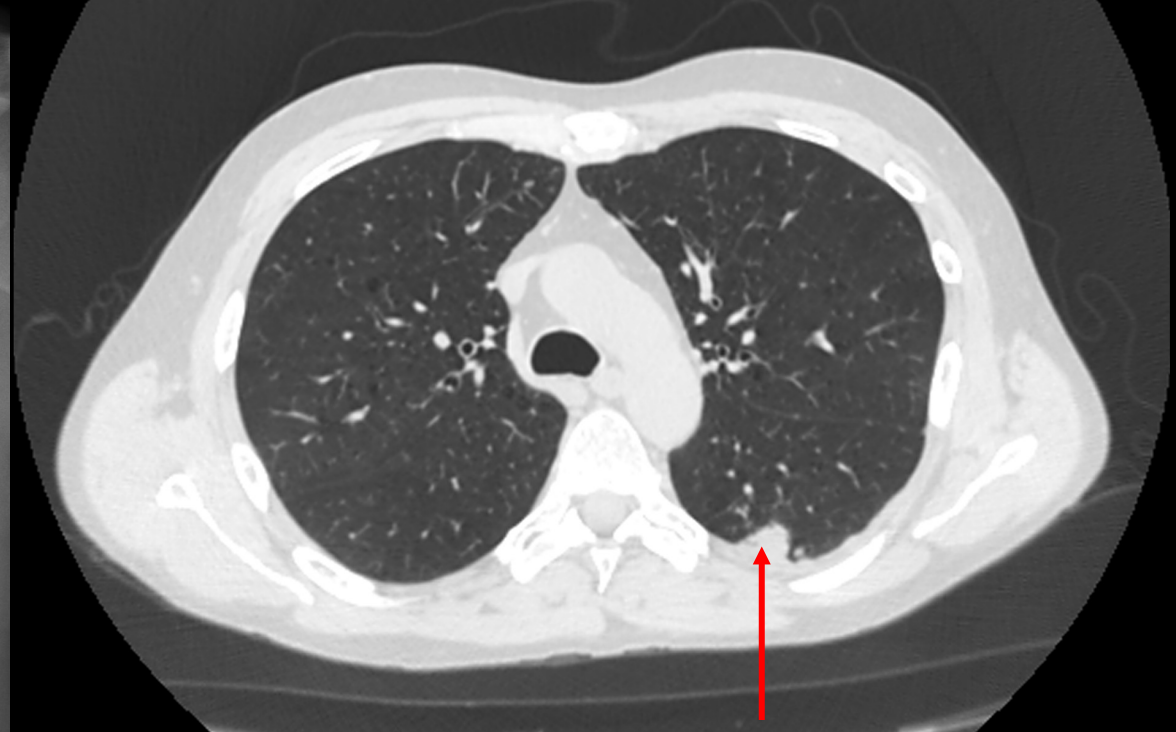
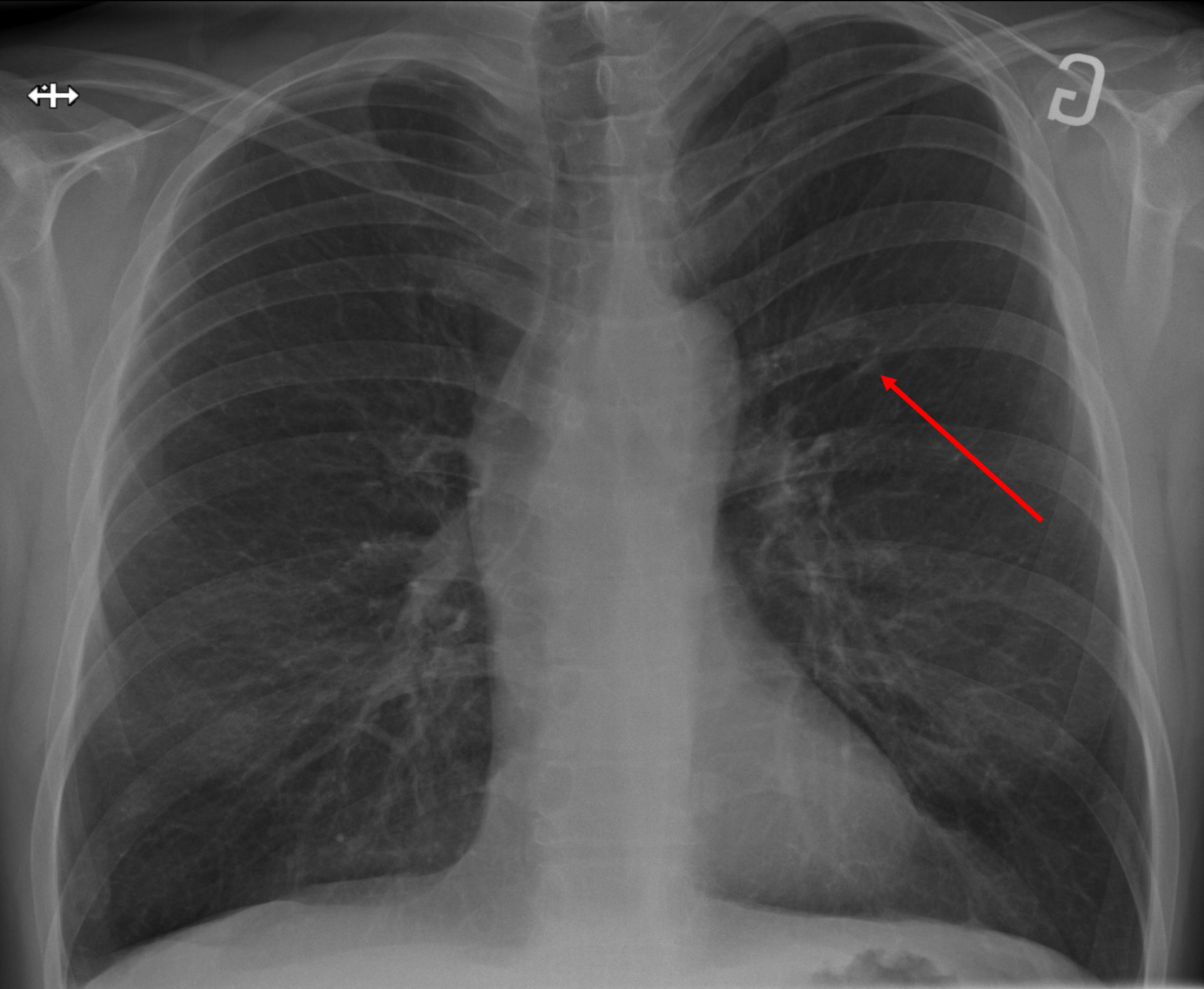
Kevin Schwartzman MD, MPH

McGill International Tuberculosis Centre

Disclosures



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46M Quebec-born smoker, seen for atypical chest pain/anxiety
Referred to our lung cancer rapid investigation clinic
Needle biopsy: necrotizing granulomas
→ 2/3 induced sputa smear-negative, culture-positive

A thought experiment

- “Québécois de souche”; works in HR for a major government agency, lives in a Montreal suburb with his partner and 9 year-old daughter, and is in frequent contact with his parents in their 70s (all are healthy). In retrospect, persistent cough, some fatigue.
- Would you recommend that he receive his treatment under direct observation?
- Why/why not?
- What published evidence and/or elements of his situation led to your recommendation?

A thought experiment

- Is there additional or alternative information about him or the context in which he lives that would make you change your recommendation?
- If you do recommend DOT, how would you suggest this be undertaken for a busy professional who lives and works in a context where TB is virtually unknown and potentially highly stigmatized?
- What if he says “no thank you”?

A tale of two countries?

- US CDC guidelines recommend DOT for all persons with TB disease
- Canadian TB Standards: “People with risk factors for non-adherence, people with TB with significant morbidity and people with infectious drug-resistant disease should be **considered** for DOT.”
 - “We strongly recommend that all jurisdictions provide the capacity to deliver daily, in-person, supportive care for people with TB disease. Daily support should be individualized, and **may** include directly observed therapy.”
 - In Canada, use of DOT varies substantially by setting and clinical context
 - My own local clinical and public health programs (Canada’s second-largest city) do not routinely use DOT
- No clear evidence that clinical outcomes differ systematically between the two countries, though data are not necessarily reported in the same ways