

Supplement Table 1: Cause distribution of pleural effusions according to study cohort

Cause	Beijing cohort (n = 154)	Wuhan cohort (n = 120)
Tuberculous pleural effusion	51	44
Malignant pleural effusion	61	47
Lung cancer	45	36
Mesothelioma	5	2
Lymphoma	2	0
Other cancers	5	2
Unknown	4	7
Infectious pleural effusion	28	19
Parapneumonic effusion	23	15
Empyema	5	4
Miscellaneous	14	10
System lupus erythematosus	4	3
Pulmonary embolism	3	1
Postthoracic surgery	3	1
Transudates	4	5

Supplement Table 2: Pathological findings of pleural biopsy specimen of patients with tuberculous pleural effusion

Variables	Beijing cohort (n = 51)	Wuhan cohort (n = 44)
Caseating granulomas		
Caseating granulomas	2	1
Caseating granulomas + Acid-fast bacillus	1	1
Epithelioid cell granuloma		
Epithelioid cell granuloma	16	15
Epithelioid cell granuloma + Acid-fast bacillus	9	7
Caseating granulomas + Epithelioid cell granuloma		
Caseating granulomas + Epithelioid cell granuloma	10	9
Caseating granulomas + Epithelioid cell granuloma + Acid-fast bacillus	13	11

Supplement Table 3: Study summary of IL-27 in pleural fluid

Study	Settings	TPE/non-TPE Subjects, n	Cut-off, ng/L	Test Results				Quality Scores	
				TP	FP	FN	TN	QUADAS	STARD
Yang ⁶	China	68/106	1,007.0	63	1	5	105	10	16
Wu ⁷	China	40/41	900.8	38	1	2	40	10	17
Valdes ⁸	Spain	70/361	550.0	64	54	6	307	10	15
Skouras ⁹	Greece	10/111	391.0	8	10	2	101	12	16
Sun ¹⁸	China	40/36	838.0	38	1	2	35	10	11
Current study*	China	51/103	591.4	49	1	2	102	13	21
Current study†	China	44/76	591.4	43	1	1	75	13	21

*Data from Beijing cohort, †data from Wuhan cohort.

TPE = tuberculous pleural effusion; TP = true positive; FP = false positive; FN= false negative; TN = true negative;

QUADAS = quality assessment for studies of diagnostic accuracy; STARD = standards for reporting diagnostic accuracy.