

Supplementary Table 1 Diagnostic yields of effusion culture, sputum culture, and pleural biopsy in 334 cases of tuberculous pleurisy after eliminating 48 presumptive cases enrolled by criteria number 4 mentioned in the methods.

Diagnostic procedures	Number (%)
Positive effusion culture	244/334 (73)
Positive sputum culture	184/334 (55)
Positive sputum culture/ sputum culture performed	184/299 (62)
Combining effusion and sputum cultures	301/334 (90)
Observation of granuloma/ pleural biopsy performed	110/127 (87)

Supplementary Table 2 Biochemical characteristics and cells differential of 334 tuberculous pleurisy after eliminating 48 presumptive cases.

Characteristic	N	Mean ± SD	Median (IQR)	Effusion culture		P Value
				Positive Mean±SD or Median(IQR)	Negative Mean±SD or Median(IQR)	
Blood test						
WBC (/μL)	307	7646 ± 3279	7050 (5700, 8670)	7755 ± 3536	7361 ± 2481	0.27
Platelet (K/μL)	303	278 ± 117	269 (199, 344)	262 ± 115	320 ± 113	< 0.001
Protein (g/dL)	151	6.7 ± 1.0	6.8 (6, 7.5)	6.6 ± 1.0	7.0 ± 1.1	0.09
LDH (U/L)	134	582 ± 280	503 (420, 651)	509 (416, 660)	494 (421, 625)	0.54
Pleural effusion test						
WBC (/μL)	321	2227 ± 2047	1600 (800, 3010)	1600 (800, 3060)	1820 (900, 2782)	0.82
Lymphocyte %	319	74 ± 26	83 (60, 94)	78 (55, 91)	93 (82, 98)	< 0.001
Neutrophil %	319	16 ± 22	6 (1, 22)	9 (2, 28)	2 (0, 8)	< 0.001
Protein (g/dL)	315	4.7 ± 1.0	4.9 (4.2, 5.4)	4.6 ± 1.1	5.0 ± 0.8	< 0.001
LDH (U/L)	315	1035 ± 1332	709 (458, 1098)	849 (500, 1313)	560 (394, 763)	< 0.001
Glucose (mg/dL)	287	105 ± 55	96 (76, 124)	101 ± 56	115 ± 53	0.06
Effusion-serum ratio						
Protein (effusion/serum)	150	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 (0.6, 0.8)	0.7 ± 0.1	0.7 ± 0.2	0.66
LDH (effusion/serum)	129	2.0 ± 1.7	1.3 (0.9, 2.4)	2.1 ± 1.8	1.3 ± 1.2	0.01

IQR, interquartile range; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; SD, standard deviation; WBC, white blood cell

Supplementary Figure 1 A hypothesis of a continuous spectrum of tuberculous pleurisy based on the findings of this study.

