

## NIH Public Access

Author Manuscript

Ann Epidemiol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2011 March 1.

Published in final edited form as:

Ann Epidemiol. 2010 March ; 20(3): 210–216. doi:10.1016/j.annepidem.2009.11.001.

### Body Composition among HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative Adult Patients with Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Uganda

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#### Abstract

**Purpose**—We determined whether human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection affects body cell mass and fat mass wasting among adults with pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB).

**Methods**—We screened 967 Ugandan adults for PTB and HIV infection in a cross-sectional study. We compared anthropometric and bioelectric impedance analysis (BIA) body composition parameters among HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative men and women with or without PTB using a non-parametric test.

**Results**—We found that poor nutritional status associated with TB differed among men and women. Anthropometric and BIA body composition did not differ between HIV-seropositive and HIVseronegative patients regardless of gender. Average weight group difference in men comprised of body cell mass and fat mass in equal proportions of 43%. In women, average weight group difference comprised predominantly of fat mass of 73% and body cell mass of 13%. Compared to individuals without TB, patients with TB had lower body mass index, weight, body cell mass, and fat mass regardless of gender and HIV status.

**Conclusions**—Gender but not HIV status was associated with body composition changes in TB. Tuberculosis appears to be the dominant factor driving the wasting process among co-infected patients.

#### Keywords

Tuberculosis; HIV; bioelectrical impedance; gender; wasting; body composition

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Author disclosures: Mupere E, Zalwango S, Chiunda A, Okwera A, Mugerwa R, and Whalen CC, no conflict of interest.

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#### Introduction

Body wasting is a prominent and cardinal feature of tuberculosis (TB) disease (1,2) and is a marker of disease severity and outcome. In sub-Saharan Africa, a large proportion of patients with TB also have co-infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (3). Co-infection may worsen the wasting seen in either TB disease or HIV infection alone (4,5). Wasting in TB is associated with reduced caloric intake due to anorexia or loss of appetite and increase in consumption of calories due to altered metabolism induced by inflammation and immune response (6–8).

Several studies (9–15) in sub-Saharan Africa have shown the impact of dual infection with HIV and TB on nutritional status using anthropometric measurements. However, body composition measured by anthropometry including fat mass and fat-free mass (16) may be associated with observer bias. Furthermore anthropometry may not predict body cell mass, the metabolically active component of the body that may be associated with adverse effects on survival. Therefore, anthropometry provides only limited information about nutritional status in patients. Bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) offers a useful alternative to anthropometry because it measures multiple body compartments and provides a more detailed assessment of body composition. Several cross-sectional studies (10,12,14,15,17) have examined the impact of HIV infection on body composition of adults with TB disease but are limited because they lacked comparison group free of TB disease or HIV infection to show the independent metabolic effects of TB disease and HIV infection. Some studies were limited by small sample sizes (10,14,15) while others (6) comprised only men in the study population.

The current cross-sectional study with a large sample size including both men and women was conducted in Kampala, Uganda, to determine whether HIV infection is associated with body cell mass and fat mass wasting among adults with TB disease. We hypothesized that HIV-seropositive patients with TB disease had marked depletion of body cell mass and fat mass stores when compared to HIV-seronegative patients with TB disease.

#### Materials and methods

We conducted a cross-sectional study to address the objective of the present study. The study population consisted of 445 index TB patients and 522 household contacts without evidence of TB aged 18 or more years selected from Kawempe Division in Kampala, Uganda. Index patients presenting with sputum positive pulmonary tuberculosis to the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program at the Tuberculosis Clinic of Upper Mulago Hospital complex and their household contacts were recruited to the study between July 2002 and March 2008. The institutional review boards at Case Western Reserve University and the Ugandan National AIDS Research Subcommittee approved the study, with final approval by the Office for Protection from Research Risk of the National Institutes of Health.

All subjects in the study were given appropriate pre- and post-test HIV counseling and AIDS education. At enrollment, basic demographic information and a medical history were collected, and a standardized physical examination was conducted by a medical officer. Active TB was confirmed by sputum smear microscopy and culture. Patients with active TB were treated with standard four-drug chemotherapy for tuberculosis per guidelines of the Ugandan Ministry of Health. Adults with a previous history of treated pulmonary TB were excluded in the study. Of the 522 adult household contacts who were enrolled in the study, 23 household contacts were excluded, leaving 944 participants in total available for analysis. Of the 23 excluded contacts, 22 contacts had unknown TB or HIV status and one contact was missing height measurement. Household contacts that were excluded had comparable age, sex, weight, height, and body mass index with those who were included in the analysis.

Nutritional status was assessed using anthropometric measurements such as height and weight and BIA Detroit, MI, RJL Systems. All measurements were performed by one trained observer using the same equipment and recommended standard conditions with regard to body position, previous exercise, dietary intake, skin temperature, and voiding of the bladder were taken into consideration in taking BIA measurements (18). All measurements were performed on the day index patients were confirmed to have TB disease while household contacts were measured on a scheduled visit within three weeks following identification of the index patient.

Body-mass index (BMI) was computed using the relationship of weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared (kg/m<sup>2</sup>). BIA, is a simple, non-invasive technique, that has been recommended for nutritional studies in the clinical setting (18,19) and has been shown to be sufficiently precise for clinical investigation of body composition analysis (18–22). Singlefrequency BIA was performed at 50 kHz and 800 mA with standard tetrapolar lead placement (23). Before performing measurements on each subject, the BIA instrument was calibrated using the manufacturer's recalibration device. The resistance and reactance were based on measures of a series circuit (20). BIA measurements were performed in triplicate for each subject. Body weight was determined to the nearest 0.1 kg using a SECA adult balance, and standing height was determined to the nearest 2 mm. Body cell mass and fat-free mass were calculated from BIA measurements using equations that were previously cross-validated in a sample of patients (white, black and Hispanic) with and without HIV infection (20) and have been applied elsewhere in African studies (10,12,17). Extracellular mass was calculated as fatfree mass minus body cell mass and fat mass as body weight minus fat-free mass (24).

HIV-1 infection was diagnosed on the basis of a positive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for HIV-1 antibodies (Recombigen; Cambridge Biotech, Cambridge, MA). HIV-seropositive participants who were newly identified with HIV were not on antiretroviral therapy at the time of measurement; no patients with pre-existing HIV infection at the time of household evaluation were on antiretroviral therapy.

All study participants in the analysis were categorized into 4 mutually independents groups: HIV-seropositive patients with and without TB disease, HIV-seronegative patients with and without TB disease. Measures of central tendency and variability were compared across 4 mutually exclusive groups using Wilcoxon-Mann Whitney test for average anthropometric and BIA body composition parameters, hemoglobin, and CD4 cell counts. We made comparisons between HIV-seropositive patients with TB disease and HIV-seronegative patients with TB disease and between HIV-seropositive individuals without TB disease and HIV-seronegative patients with TB disease and between HIV-seropositive individuals without TB disease on body cell mass and fat mass. BMI was dichotomized at cutoff of 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and proportions compared among the 4 mutually exclusive groups using chi-square and Fischer's exact tests. Fischer's exact test was used where expected counts were less than 5. A p-value of <0.05 was considered significant in all analyses. BMI, < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup> was considered consistent with malnutrition (25). All analyses were performed using SAS version 9.1.3 Cary software, North Carolina SAS Institute Inc. 2000 – 2004.

#### Results

Of the 944 participants who were included in the analysis, 93 men and 103 women were HIVseropositive with TB disease; 145 men and 104 women were HIV-seronegative with TB disease; 22 men and 61 women were HIV-seropositive without TB disease; while 160 men and 256 women were HIV-seronegative without TB disease (Table 1). In Table 1, among 420 men and 524 women regardless of HIV status there were no significant differences in average age between participants with and participants without TB disease. HIV-seropositive participants with TB disease had significantly lower CD4 cell count and hemoglobin levels, higher proportions of individuals with anemia and CD4 < 200 cell counts compared to HIV-seropositive participants without TB disease regardless of gender (Table 1). Similarly, HIV-seronegative participants with TB disease had significantly lower hemoglobin, and higher proportions of individuals with anemia compared to HIV-seronegative participants with TB disease regardless with TB disease regardless of gender. HIV-seropositive participants with TB disease were significantly older, had significantly lower hemoglobin levels and higher proportion of individuals with anemia compared to HIV-seronegative participants of gender (Table 1).

HIV-seropositive men and women with TB disease had signs of nutritional deficiency. Compared to individuals without TB disease, patients with TB disease had lower BMI, weight, body cell mass, and fat mass regardless of gender and HIV status. For example, among men body cell mass was 22.83 versus 25.74 (P < 0.001) and 23.01 versus 26.35 (P < 0.001) for HIV-seropositive and negative status, with and without TB disease respectively (Table 2). A greater proportion of TB cases had lower BMI < 18.5 kg/m2, and an increased extra-cellular mass/body cell mass ratio than participants without TB disease. Among men and women with TB disease, measurement of anthropometric and BIA body composition did not differ between HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative patients. A similar relationship was observed among men and women with TB disease (Table 2).

We found that men with TB disease weighed approximately 8 kg less than men without TB disease regardless of HIV serostatus (Figure 1). Similarly, women with TB disease weighed between 9 and 11 kg less than women without TB disease; however, among women, HIV-seropositive TB cases had greater weight difference than did their HIV seronegative counterparts with TB disease (Figure 1). Moreover, we found that the pattern of weight difference differed between men and women. The average weight difference in men comprised of body cell mass and fat mass in equal proportions of about 43% whereas in women, the average weight difference for HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative with TB disease comprised predominantly of fat mass of 73% to 80% with minimal body cell mass loss of 13% to 16%, respectively. The pattern of weight, body fat, percent body fat, and body cell mass differences among men and women did not differ according to HIV serostatus (Table 2); however, the pattern differed remarkably according to gender status. Men were heavier and had higher body cell mass than women while women had higher body fat and percent by weight body fat than men regardless of TB and HIV status respectively (Figures 2 and 3).

There were no significant differences between anthropometric and BIA body composition parameters when compared among 60 HIV-seropositive adults with pulmonary TB who had CD4 cell counts 200 and 54 who had CD4 cell counts > 200 (Table 3).

#### Discussion

In this study of 944 Ugandan adults, the poor nutritional status associated with TB disease differed among men and women, yet was not affected by HIV serostatus. The average weight difference in men with TB disease comprised of body cell mass and fat mass in equal proportion whereas women, the average weight difference was predominantly fat mass. This pattern of average weight difference did not differ by HIV-serostatus regardless of gender.

Our findings suggest that TB disease and not HIV infection may be the dominant factor driving the wasting process in co-infected patients with TB disease. Among both men and women, patients with TB had lower body cell mass and fat mass as compared to individuals without TB according to HIV status. However, we did not detect differences in body composition by HIV status in patients without TB. This is in agreement with the postmortem study in Uganda

in which results showed TB disease to be the common underlying likely cause of HIVassociated wasting and is also in keeping with studies of weight loss in HIV that linked most wasting episodes with opportunistic infections (26,27). Furthermore, our study findings are consistent with the study by Paton and Ng (28) who used both a reference method (dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry) and BIA prediction method in measuring body composition in an Asian population. In the Paton and Ng study (28), patients with TB had lower body cell mass (21.0 versus 25.6 kg) and fat mass (6.2 versus 12.6 kg) than the controls without TB. Body composition measurements were not different in patients with and without HIV co-infection. Although the methodology is less robust in our study, because we did not have the referent method available, it does confirm the findings by Paton and Ng in an African population. It also extends their observations to include both men and women with suitable sample sizes. Compared to previous studies on TB and HIV (10,14,28,29), our study included a full panel of control groups of HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative individuals without TB disease to demonstrate the absolute contribution of HIV or TB to wasting and the independent effect of TB disease regarding body wasting.

This study found that the changes in body composition for men and women with TB disease differed. Compared to controls without active TB, men with active TB waste both fat and body cell mass whereas women with TB predominantly waste body fat. There are two potential explanations for this finding. First, men may begin to waste body protein sooner than women because fat stores in men are proportionately smaller than in women, as seen in this study. This assumes that fat is wasted at a constant rate that is similar for men and women. Second, it is possible that this finding reflect a preferential loss of fat mass and a relative preservation of body cell mass seen in women (30). The gender differences in body composition may relate to the higher fat mass in women before disease onset and that the rate of tissue lost is related to the starting fat mass and or to the hormonal differences. Regardless of the mechanism, at the time of TB diagnosis, men may have begun to metabolize the body cell mass and have less energy reserve than women for complications of therapy or new opportunistic infections. Although the survival of HIV-infected men and women is similar, one study showed a trend toward better survival as women were 40% less likely to die during the first year after treatment of TB (13).

The striking lower hemoglobin levels among patients with TB disease compared to HIVseronegative individuals without TB disease may indicate severe malnutrition or inflammation (31). Several studies have shown that decreased body cell mass and hypoalbuminemia as indicators of malnutrition (2,32,33) predict shorter survival in AIDS patients; however, the prognostic value of such parameters and hemoglobin are yet to be explored in TB patients.

The findings of our study may reflect uncomplicated, partial starvation (reduction in energy intake) rather than hyper-metabolism. We found the ratios of body cell mass differences relative to average weight difference regardless of gender (Figure 1) to be much less than the ratio of 0.67 seen in classic longitudinal study of chronic starvation (34). The pattern of body composition in TB disease appears to be most consistent with a mixture of calorie deficit, i.e., starvation and cachexia. Pure starvation produces body composition in which weight loss is invariably accompanied by more fat loss than lean tissues or sometimes in equal proportions (35–37). Thus, there is relative sparing of lean tissues. However, individuals with meager fat stores are forced to burn protein when faced with energy deficits (36,37). In cachexia, there is disproportionate loss of lean tissue (or fat-free mass), which comprises of body cell mass and connective tissues, over losses of body fat mass, relative preservation of the extracellular body water (35,36,38,39). The observed changes in cachexia result from increase in metabolic rate, with catabolism predominating over anabolism and elevations in resting energy expenditure. The metabolic events are affected by cytokines including TNF- $\alpha$ , interleukin-1, interleukin-6, and interferon alpha (40). Furthermore, there may be behavioral factors that restrict both dietary

intake and activity. In a cross-sectional study such as this one, it is not possible to infer the underlying mechanisms that led to the observed patterns of body wasting. Regardless of the mechanism, TB patients need adequate nutrition, before and after the diagnosis of the disease.

In this study, we did not use a reference measurement of body composition, such as the dualenergy x-ray absorptiomety. Furthermore, the BIA prediction method used has not yet been validated in the local population. As a result, our findings of body composition may be biased because of variations in hydration across ethnic groups (18). We have, however, used equations that were previously cross-validated in individuals of different race (white, black, and Hispanics) among men and women, who were both health controls and HIV-infected patients (20). Moreover, the equations have been used widely in other studies from Africa with meaningful findings (10,12,17). We also took care to make measurements at rest, with proper placement of leads, in participants who had not exercised or taken alcohol, in participants with voided bladder and ambient temperature. However, we made measurements in patients with underlying illness that may cause shifts in body water compartments, thereby affecting measurements of fat mass. Our findings are also limited by the lack of dietary intake assessment to give further insight in the interpretation of gender differences in body composition.

Despite the limitations of our study, we have found that during TB disease there are remarkable gender differences in body composition changes that further evaluation is needed to understand how these changes influence survival and response to antiTB therapy. Among patients with TB and HIV co-infection, TB seems to be the dominant factor driving the wasting process and HIV infection does not appear to alter the body composition changes in TB wasting.

#### Acknowledgments

The study was supported in part by the AIDS International Training Research Program Fogarty International Center, grant number TW00011 based at Case Western Reserve University Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

We thank all study staff members of the Case Western Reserve University and Makerere University research collaboration at the Tuberculosis Research Unit in the United States and in Uganda for their assistance; the faculty staff at Case Western Reserve University Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics for the guidance in analyzing the project; and the Fogarty International Center, for the continued support.

#### List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

TB	Tuberculosis
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
BIA	Bioelectrical impedance analysis
BCM	Body cell mass
FM	Fat mass
TNF-α	Tumor necrosis factor alpha
BMI	Body mass index
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbet assay

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BCM = body cell mass, FM = fat mass, ECM = extra-cellular mass, TB = tuberculosis. Average group weight difference (kg) represent weight differences between patients with TB disease according to respective HIV-serostatus and HIV-seronegative individuals without disease, calculated for men and women. BCM and FM differences represent differences between patients with TB disease and HIV-seronegative individuals without TB disease, calculated for men and women and plotted relative to the respective average weight group difference.

#### FIGURE 1.

Body Cell Mass and Fat Mass Difference Relative to Average Weight Group Difference for Men and Women among Patients with Pulmonary Tuberculosis Disease.

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#### FIGURE 2.

Body Cell Mass Box Plots for Men and Women among HIV-seronegative and HIV-positive Participants with or without Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

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#### FIGURE 3.

Fat Mass Box Plots for Men and Women among HIV-seronegative and HIV-positive Participants with or without Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

		Me	n (n=420)			Wom	en (n=524)	
	HIV-seropositi	ve (n=115)	HIV-seronegativ	e (n=305)	HIV-seropositive	e (n=164)	HIV-seronegativ	/e (360)
Characteristic <sup>I</sup>	TB+ (n=93)	TB- (n=22)	TB+ (n=145)	TB- (n=160)	TB+ (n=103)	TB- (n=61)	TB+ (n=104)	TB- (n=256
Age, y	$33.7 \pm 8.1$	35.7 ± 8.8	$29.3 \pm 9.7$	$29.4 \pm 11.6$	$30.6 \pm 8.4$	$31.8 \pm 8.6$	$27.2 \pm 9.2$	$30.2\pm13.3$
Index cases, n	88	I	140		97	I	101	ı
CD4+ lymphocytes <sup>2</sup> , cells/µL <sup>2</sup>	$200 \pm 189$	$375 \pm 205^b$	ı	ı	$238 \pm 192$	$352 \pm 226^b$	ı	ı
CD4+ lymphocytes < 200 cells/µL <sup>2</sup> , %	57 (30/53)	25 (3/12) b	ı	ı	49 (30/61)	27 (10/37) b	ı	ı
Hemoglobin <sup>3</sup> , g/L	$115\pm 25$	$140 \pm 14^{a}$	$126 \pm 21$	$158 \pm 16^{d}$	$104 \pm 20$	$129 \pm 11^{d}$	$115 \pm 17$	$134 \pm 15^{d}$
Anemic <sup>4</sup> , $\%$	75 (70/93)	32 (7/22) <sup>a</sup>	59 (85/145)	4 (6/158) <sup>a</sup>	78 (80/103)	18 (11/61) <sup>a</sup>	59 (61/104)	13 (34/252) <sup>6</sup>

 $I_{Values}$  are means  $\pm$  standard deviation for continuous variables.

Ann Epidemiol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2011 March 1.

<sup>2</sup>CD4+ lymphocytes cell counts were not measured in 50 men and 66 women with HIV infection; 302 men and 358 women without HIV infection.

 $^{3}$ Hemoglobin was not measured in 50 men with HIV infection; 2 men and 4 women without HIV infection.

 ${}^{4}$  Hemoglobin <12.0 g/L for men, <13.0 g/L for women.

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# Table 2

Anthropometric and BIA Body Composition among HIV-seropositive and HIV-seronegative Men and Women with or without Pulmonary Tuberculosis

		Me	:n (n=420)			Wome	en (n=524)	
Characteristic <sup>I</sup>	HIV-seropositive	(n=115)	HIV-seronegativ	e (n=305)	HIV-seropositive	(n=164)	HIV-seronegativ	e (n=360)
	TB+ (n=93)	TB- (n=22)	TB+ (n=145)	TB- (n=160)	TB+ (n=103)	TB- (n=61)	TB+ (n=104)	TB- (n=256)
Weight, kg	52.97 ± 7.45	$59.14\pm6.87a$	$53.26 \pm 7.34$	$61.22 \pm 10.38^{d}$	$49.51 \pm 8.35$	$61.17 \pm 14.22^{a}$	$51.17 \pm 9.66$	$60.21 \pm 13.40^{a}$
Height, cm	$168 \pm 7$	$168 \pm 5$	$169 \pm 7$	$168 \pm 7$	$158 \pm 6$	$159 \pm 7$	$158\pm 6$	$157\pm 6$
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	$18.7 \pm 2.4$	$21.0 \pm 1.9^{d}$	$18.5 \pm 1.9$	$21.6 \pm 3.2^{d}$	$19.9 \pm 3.1$	$24.0 \pm 5.1^{d}$	$20.4 \pm 4.4$	$24.3 \pm 4.9^{d}$
BMI < 18.5, %	49 (46/93)	9 (2/22) <sup>a</sup>	47 (68/145)	12 (19/160) <sup>a</sup>	31 (32/103)	8 (5/61) <sup>a</sup>	29 (30/104)	5 (14/256) <sup>a</sup>
Reactance, $\Omega$	$59.5\pm16.2$	$62.1 \pm 9.3$	$59.2\pm10.9$	$64.6 \pm 9.3^{d}$	$63.6 \pm 13.4$	$64.7 \pm 9.4$	$64.4\pm11.2$	$65.2\pm11.0$
Resistance, $\Omega$	$598.3\pm118.1$	$540.1\pm68.6^b$	$594.5\pm90.7$	$548.6 \pm 79.8^{a}$	$678.4\pm102.5$	$602.1 \pm 79.7^{a}$	$658.5 \pm 79.4$	$614.4\pm84.9^{cl}$
BCM, kg	$22.83 \pm 4.58$	$25.74 \pm 3.14a$	$23.01 \pm 4.14$	$26.35\pm3.88^{cl}$	$15.56\pm2.37$	$17.90 \pm 2.23^{a}$	$16.15\pm2.30$	$17.28 \pm 2.47^{a}$
ECM, kg	$24.38\pm2.65$	$25.08\pm2.24$	$24.52 \pm 2.53$	$25.37 \pm 3.35b$	$23.45\pm2.60$	$24.81\pm2.58a$	$23.69 \pm 2.21$	$24.14 \pm 2.42$
ECM/BCM	$1.11 \pm 0.23$	$0.98\pm0.10^{b}$	$1.10\pm0.20$	$0.98\pm0.14^{a}$	$1.53 \pm 0.22$	$1.39 \pm 0.09^{a}$	$1.48 \pm 0.17$	$1.41 \pm 0.14^{a}$
Fat mass, kg	$5.97 \pm 2.99$	$8.31 \pm 2.69^{d}$	$5.78\pm2.63$	$9.50 \pm 4.87 \ a$	$11.07\pm6.42$	$18.32 \pm 10.93^{d}$	$11.62\pm6.92$	$18.87 \pm 10.58^{d}$
Percent fat, %	$10 \pm 5$	$14 \pm 3b$	$10 \pm 4$	$15 \pm 5^d$	$20 \pm 10$	$28 \pm 10^{d}$	$21 \pm 10$	$29 \pm 10^{d}$
<i>a</i> p-value < 0.001,								
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<i>q</i>								

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p-value < 0.05.

I values are means  $\pm$  standard deviation for continuous variables. TB- = no tuberculosis disease, TB+ = Tuberculosis disease, BCM = body cell mass, ECM = extracellular mass.

#### Table 3

Anthropometric and BIA Body Composition among HIV-seropositive Adults with Pulmonary Tuberculosis by CD4+ Lymphocyte count

Characteristic <sup>1</sup>	CD4+ Lymphocyte count $\leq$ 200 cells/µL (n=60)	> 200 cells/µL (n=54)	p-value
Weight, kg	$51.2 \pm 8.2$	$51.6\pm7.5$	0.565
Height, cm	$162.6\pm7.7$	$162.3\pm7.7$	0.907
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	19.3 ± 2.7	$19.6\pm3.0$	0.876
BMI < 18.5, %	38 (23/60)	44 (24/54)	0.508
Reactance, $\Omega$	55.1 ± 13.7	$58.4 \pm 11.3$	0.263
Resistance, $\Omega$	$641.5 \pm 128.8$	$645.3 \pm 112.1$	0.570
Body cell mass (BCM), kg	$18.8\pm5.0$	$18.8\pm5.1$	0.889
Extracellular mass (ECM), kg	$24.4 \pm 3.0$	$23.9 \pm 1.9$	0.845
ECM/BCM	$1.36\pm0.29$	$1.35\pm0.28$	0.740
Fat mass, kg	$8.23\pm5.15$	$9.29 \pm 5.80$	0.292
Percent fat, %	$15\pm9$	$17\pm9$	0.396

 $^{I}$ Values are means  $\pm$  standard deviation for continuous variables. TB- = no tuberculosis disease, TB+ = Tuberculosis disease.