Community-Acquired Pneumonia

Diagnosis

Symptoms: Cough (generally with increased sputum), fevers, shortness of breath, or chest pain
Exam: Tachycardia, tachypnea, or decreased oxygen saturation with rhonchi or crackles

- In patients with obvious signs and symptoms of community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), it is reasonable to initiate antibiotics without obtaining a chest x ray. Order a chest x ray if the diagnosis is uncertain, the patient has hypoxia or significant dyspnea, or the patient does not improve 48–72 hours after initiating antibiotic therapy.[1,2]
- If no infiltrate is present on chest x ray, bacterial pneumonia is unlikely.[1,2]
- Diagnostic testing for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 should be considered when these viruses are circulating.

Treatment[1-4]

Treatment Preferences	Healthy Adults	Adults With Comorbidities or Recent Hospitalization with Parenteral Antibiotics (within 90 days)	Children
Preferred	**Amoxicillin** OR **Doxycycline** OR (if <25% of local pneumococcus is macrolide-resistant) **Azithromycin** OR **Clarithromycin**	**Amoxicillin-clavulanate** OR **Cefpodoxime** OR **Cefuroxime** **WITH:** **Azithromycin** OR **Clarithromycin** OR **Doxycycline**	**Amoxicillin**
Alternative		Severe penicillin allergy: **Levofloxacin** OR **Moxifloxacin**	Received amoxicillin <30 days: **Amoxicillin-clavulanate** Nonsevere penicillin allergy: **Cefpodoxime** OR **Cefuroxime** Severe penicillin allergy: **Levofloxacin** OR **Moxifloxacin** OR **Azithromycin** OR **Clarithromycin**

Duration[1,5-9]

- A duration of no more than 5 days is generally sufficient for most adults and children with CAP.
- Consider prolonging therapy to at least 7 days if the patient has immunocompromise, underlying structural lung disease (not including asthma), or does not have an adequate clinical response to therapy within 72 hours.

Followup

- Remind patients that some symptoms such as fatigue and cough may persist for months.
- Patients should be instructed to return to medical attention if they do not have some improvement in symptoms by day 3 of antibiotics or if they experience mental status changes or become increasingly ill, regardless of how many days of antibiotics they have taken.

References

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