



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE

Prevalence

Pneumococcal disease is a leading cause of illness and death.¹

Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcus) is a bacterial pathogen that colonises the upper respiratory tract and can cause two main types of disease:¹

- Non-invasive disease (e.g. pneumonia, otitis media and sinusitis)
- Invasive pneumococcal disease (e.g. bacteraemia and meningitis)

In the UK there are up to 500,000 adult cases of pneumonia each year of which an estimated 42% are due to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection.^{2,3,4}

Pneumonia Mortality

The UK has one of the highest pneumonia mortality rates in the whole of Europe.^{3,5}

In 2008, pneumococcal disease killed up to 12,750 people in the UK over the age of 65.^{1,2} These figures are comparable to colon cancer, which killed 10,188 people.⁶

Invasive Pneumococcal Disease

Pneumococcus is a major cause of bacterial meningitis and septicaemia in adults of all ages, with a mortality rate of 20-30% despite intensive care and effective antibiotic therapy.⁷

The Growing Burden

The number of hospital admissions for community acquired pneumonia (CAP) has more than doubled since 2002/3.⁸

Substantial cost savings could be made by strategies to prevent CAP, to reduce the requirement for hospital admission and to shorten the length of hospital stay.³

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report April 4, 1997;46(RR-8): 1-24. Available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr4608.pdf (accessed November 2010). 2. Welte T, Torres A, Nathwani D. Clinical and economic burden of community-acquired pneumonia among adults in Europe. *Thorax* doi:10.1136/thx.2009.129502 The total figure for pneumococcal disease is derived from the 42.1% prevalence of *Strep. pneumoniae* in unspecified bacterial pneumonia established by Welte et al. (ICD-10 codes J15 & J18). 3. British Thoracic Society. Guidelines for the Management of Community Acquired Pneumonia in Adults. *Thorax* 2009; 64 (Suppl III): 1-55. 4. Office for National Statistics. Mid year Population Estimate 2009: Great Britain. <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/product.asp?vlnk=15106>. 5. World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. European Detailed Mortality Database <http://data.euro.who.int/dmdb/>. 6. ONS, GROS, NISRA Mortality Statistics, Deaths Registered 2008 (ICD-10 codes: C18, G00.1 (ONS only), J13, J18). 7. Kastenbauer S, Pfister HW, Pneumococcal meningitis in adults. Spectrum of complications and prognostic factors in a series of 87 cases. *Brain* 2003; 126: 1015-1025. 8. Hospital Episode Statistics data <http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=214>.