

# ATS/IDSA Guidelines for Community Acquired Pneumonia in Adults

Joshua P. Metlay, MD, PhD

April 2022



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

---

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

# Disclosure

*In accord with the disclosure policy of the Mass General Brigham HealthCare System as well as standards set forth by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education, speakers, I, my spouse or partner, do not have any relationship to companies producing pharmaceuticals, medical equipment or devices.*

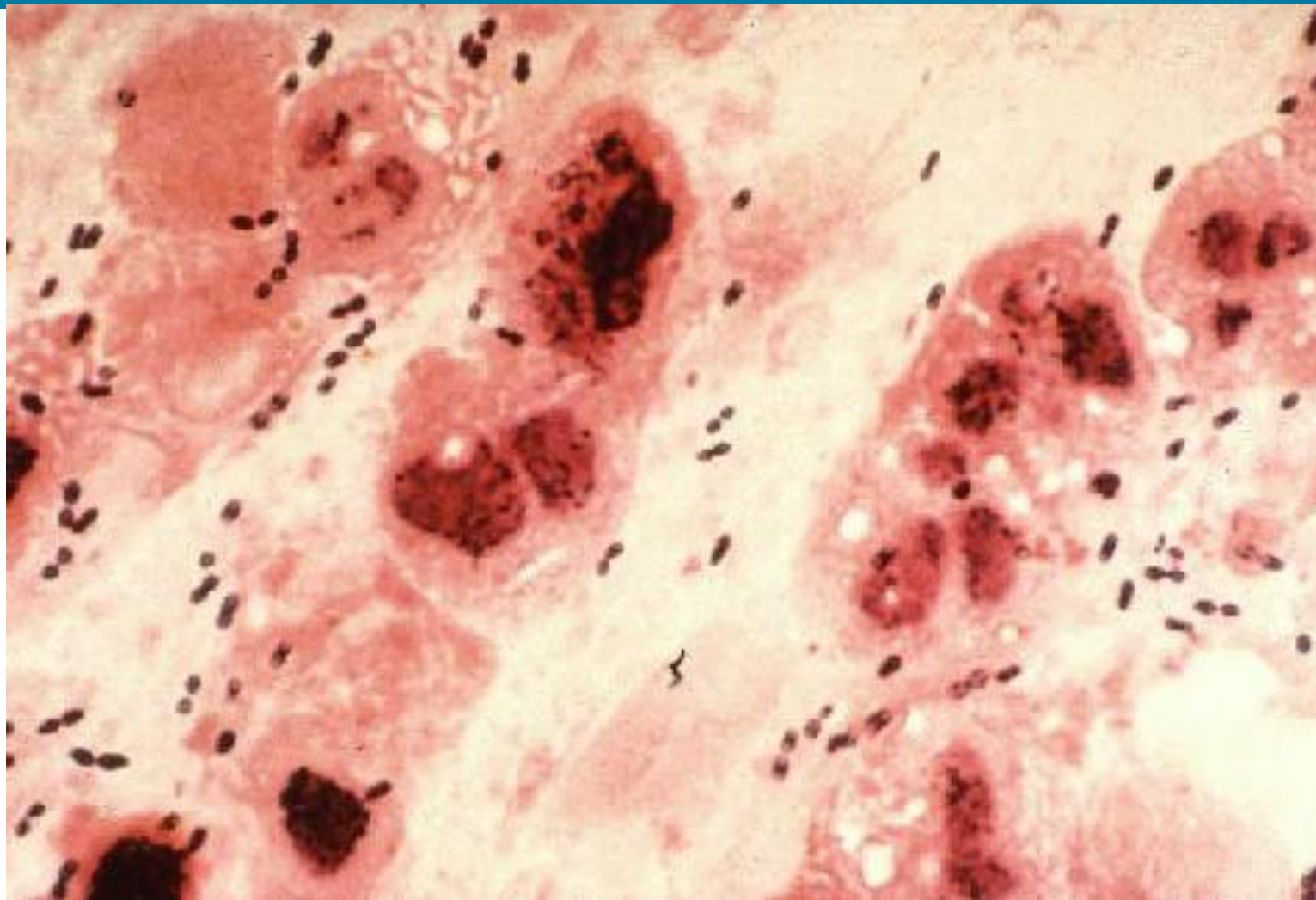


# Learning Objectives

- Understand the process of creating a clinical practice guideline for pneumonia
- Review updates to the ATS/IDSA Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Adults practice guideline in diagnostics and therapeutics
- Identify management challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic



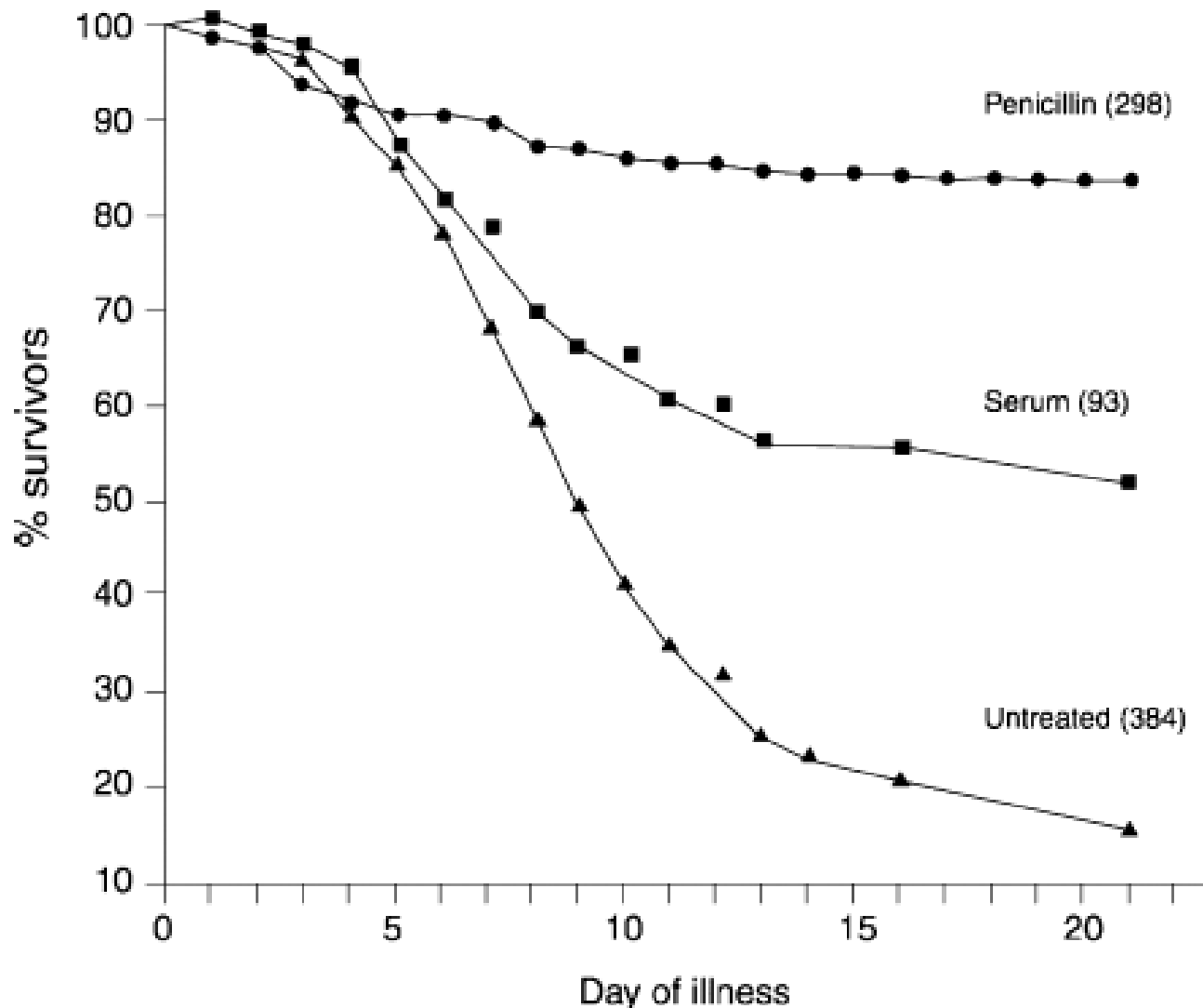
# The Good Old Days



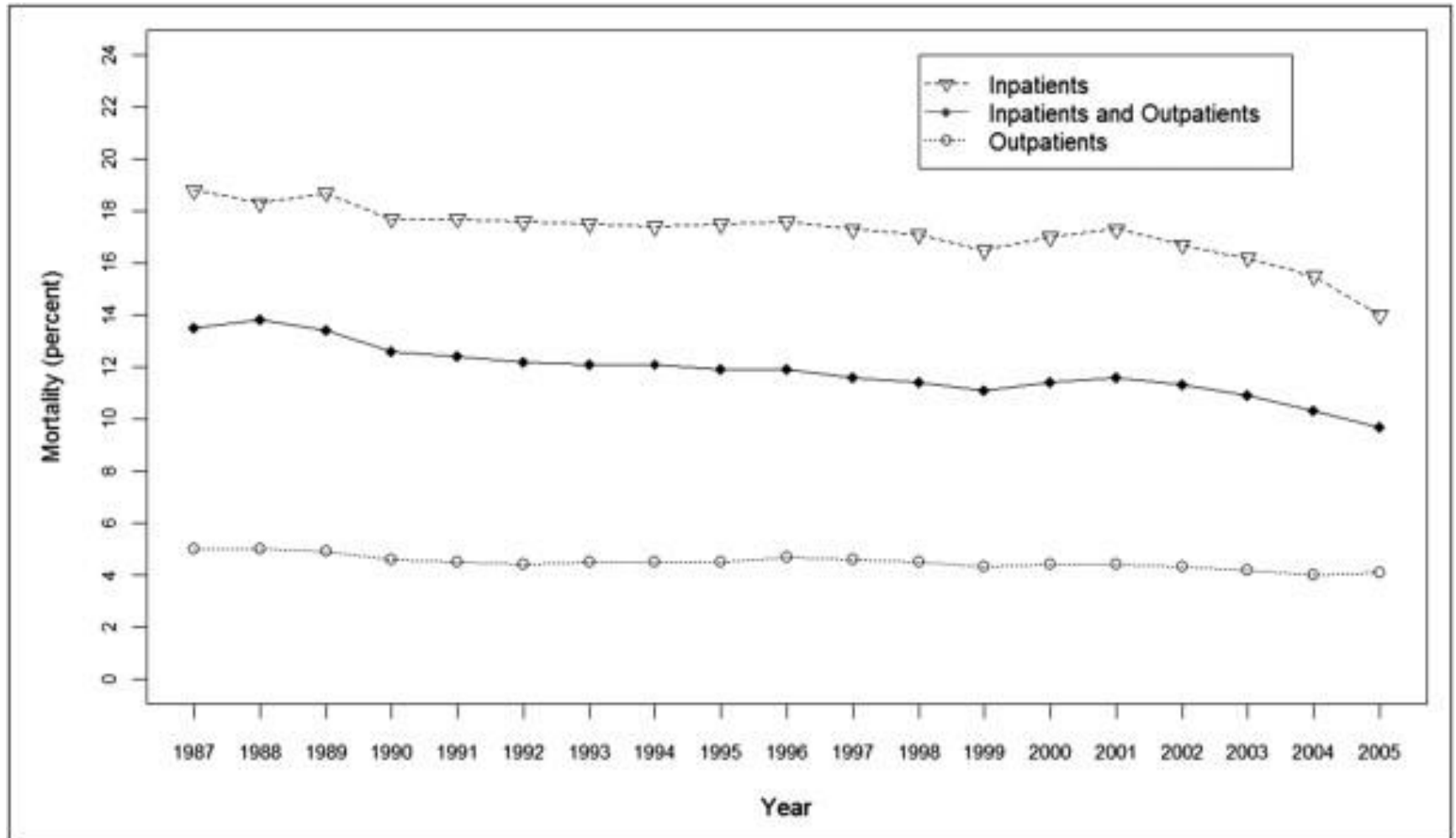
MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

# Survival from pneumococcal bacteremia 1952-1962



# CAP Remains a Serious Illness



# CAP GUIDELINE CIRCA 2007

## Infectious Diseases Society of America/American Thoracic Society Consensus Guidelines on the Management of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Adults

**Lionel A. Mandell,<sup>1,a</sup> Richard G. Wunderink,<sup>2,a</sup> Antonio Anzueto,<sup>3,4</sup> John G. Bartlett,<sup>7</sup> G. Douglas Campbell,<sup>8</sup> Nathan C. Dean,<sup>9,10</sup> Scott F. Dowell,<sup>11</sup> Thomas M. File, Jr.<sup>12,13</sup> Daniel M. Musher,<sup>5,6</sup> Michael S. Niederman,<sup>14,15</sup> Antonio Torres,<sup>16</sup> and Cynthia G. Whitney<sup>11</sup>**



# UPDATING THE GUIDELINE TAKES 12 YEARS

## **Diagnosis and Treatment of Adults with Community-acquired Pneumonia**

An Official Clinical Practice Guideline of the American Thoracic Society and  
Infectious Diseases Society of America

Joshua P. Metlay\*, Grant W. Waterer\*, Ann C. Long, Antonio Anzueto, Jan Brozek, Kristina Crothers, Laura A. Cooley, Nathan C. Dean, Michael J. Fine, Scott A. Flanders, Marie R. Griffin, Mark L. Metersky, Daniel M. Musher, Marcos I. Restrepo, and Cynthia G. Whitney; on behalf of the American Thoracic Society and Infectious Diseases Society of America

THIS OFFICIAL CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE WAS APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY MAY 2019 AND THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
AUGUST 2019



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE





# **CONFLICT OF INTEREST** IN MEDICAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND PRACTICE



**INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE**  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

**RECOMMENDATION 7.1 Groups that develop clinical practice guidelines should generally exclude as panel members individuals with conflicts of interest and should not accept direct funding for clinical practice guideline development from medical product companies or company foundations. Groups should publicly disclose with each guideline their conflict of interest policies and procedures and the sources and amounts of indirect or direct funding received for development of the guideline.**



# GRADE

- Systematic retrieval
- Meta-analytic summary when possible
- Grading of Recommendations:  
Assessment, Development, and Evaluation
  - Risk of bias
  - Precision
  - Consistency
  - Directness of Evidence
  - Magnitude of Effect

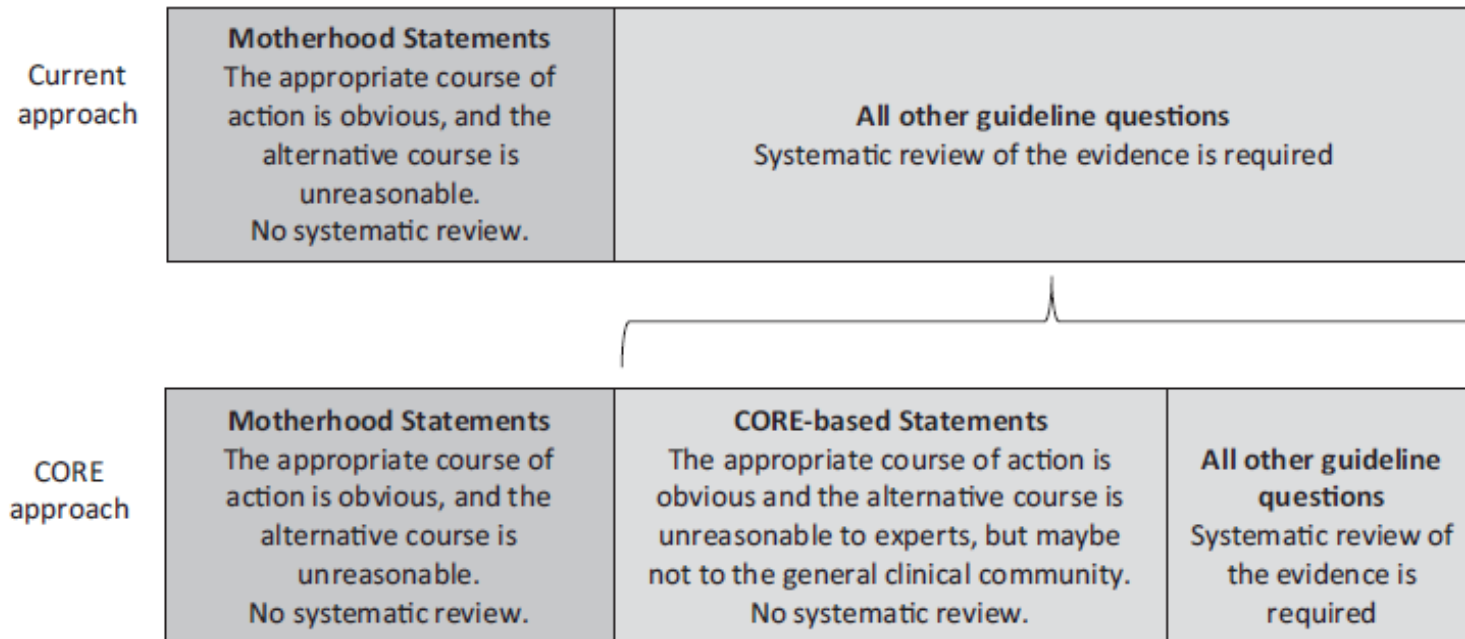


# Recommendations

- Quality of Evidence
  - High, Moderate, Low, Very low
- Strength of Recommendation
  - Strong
  - Conditional
- Consensus voting



# GUIDELINE PROCESSES IN THE FUTURE



***Wilson et al. Clinical Infectious Diseases.2020***



# Diagnosis and Treatment of Adults with Community-acquired Pneumonia

An Official Clinical Practice Guideline of the American Thoracic Society and Infectious Diseases Society of America

Joshua P. Metlay\*, Grant W. Waterer\*, Ann C. Long, Antonio Anzueto, Jan Brozek, Kristina Crothers, Laura A. Cooley, Nathan C. Dean, Michael J. Fine, Scott A. Flanders, Marie R. Griffin, Mark L. Metersky, Daniel M. Musher, Marcos I. Restrepo, and Cynthia G. Whitney; on behalf of the American Thoracic Society and Infectious Diseases Society of America

THIS OFFICIAL CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE WAS APPROVED BY THE AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY MAY 2019 AND THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AMERICA AUGUST 2019



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

# DIAGNOSIS



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

---

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

# QUESTION 1

- A 53-year-old, otherwise healthy patient presents with 5 days of cough develops worsening sputum production and fever to 101. He has had 2 negative PCR tests for SARS CoV-2. A chest radiograph demonstrates a right middle lobe infiltrate. Vital signs are stable. A procalcitonin value is  $< .2$  ng/ml. In the absence of other laboratory results, should you:
  - A. Order sputum gram stain and culture and then decide on antibiotics
  - B. Empirically prescribe guideline concordant antibiotics
  - C. Withhold antibiotics with a plan for close 24-48 hour follow-up.





# Should you measure procalcitonin?

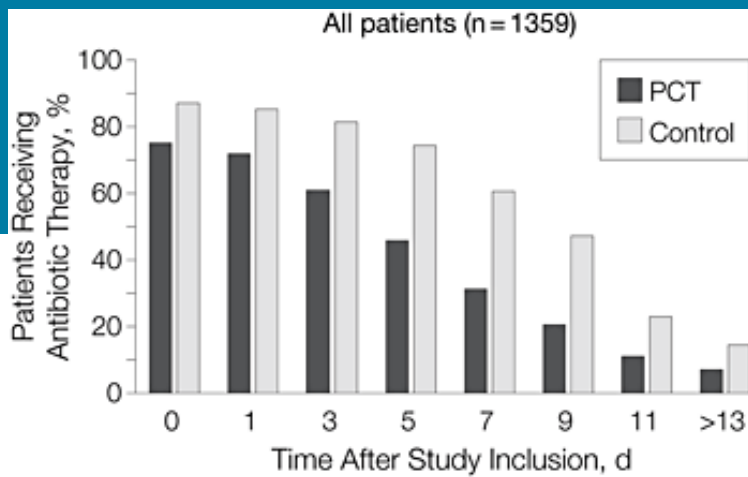
## 2007

- No mention of procalcitonin

## 2019

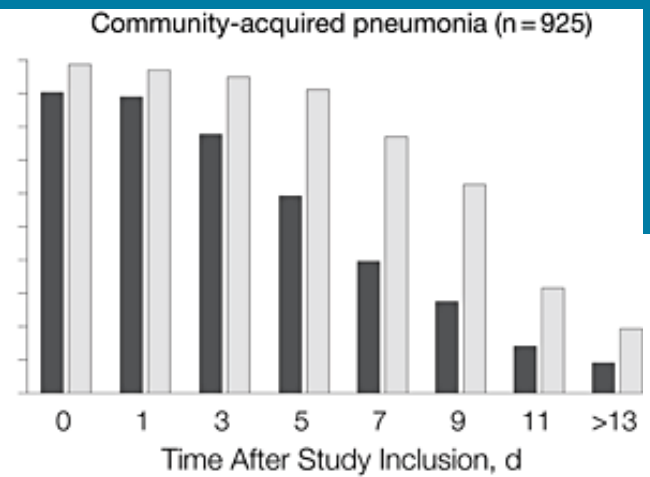
- Don't use for initial treatment decision
- Only measure serially if planned duration of treatment is > 5-7 days



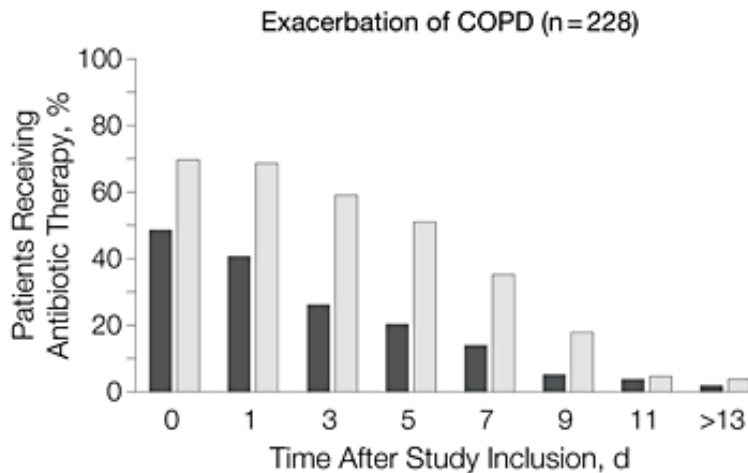


No. of patients

	0	1	3	5	7	9	11	>13
PCT	506	484	410	306	207	138	72	46
Control	603	589	562	516	420	324	157	100

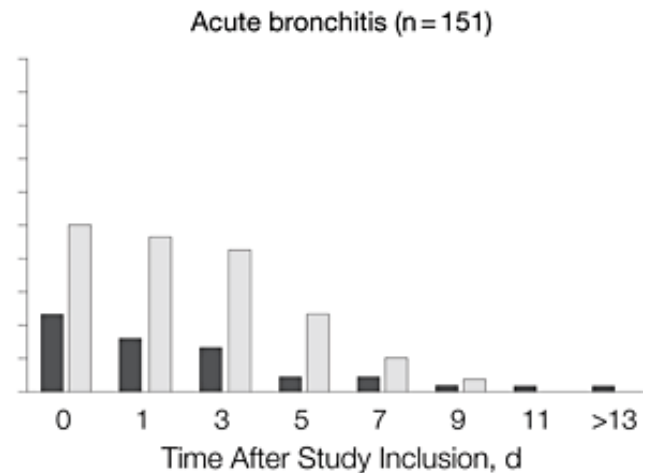


	0	1	3	5	7	9	11	>13
PCT	417	410	359	272	181	126	64	41
Control	461	453	444	426	361	292	146	91



No. of patients

	0	1	3	5	7	9	11	>13
PCT	56	47	30	23	16	6	4	2
Control	79	78	67	58	40	20	5	4



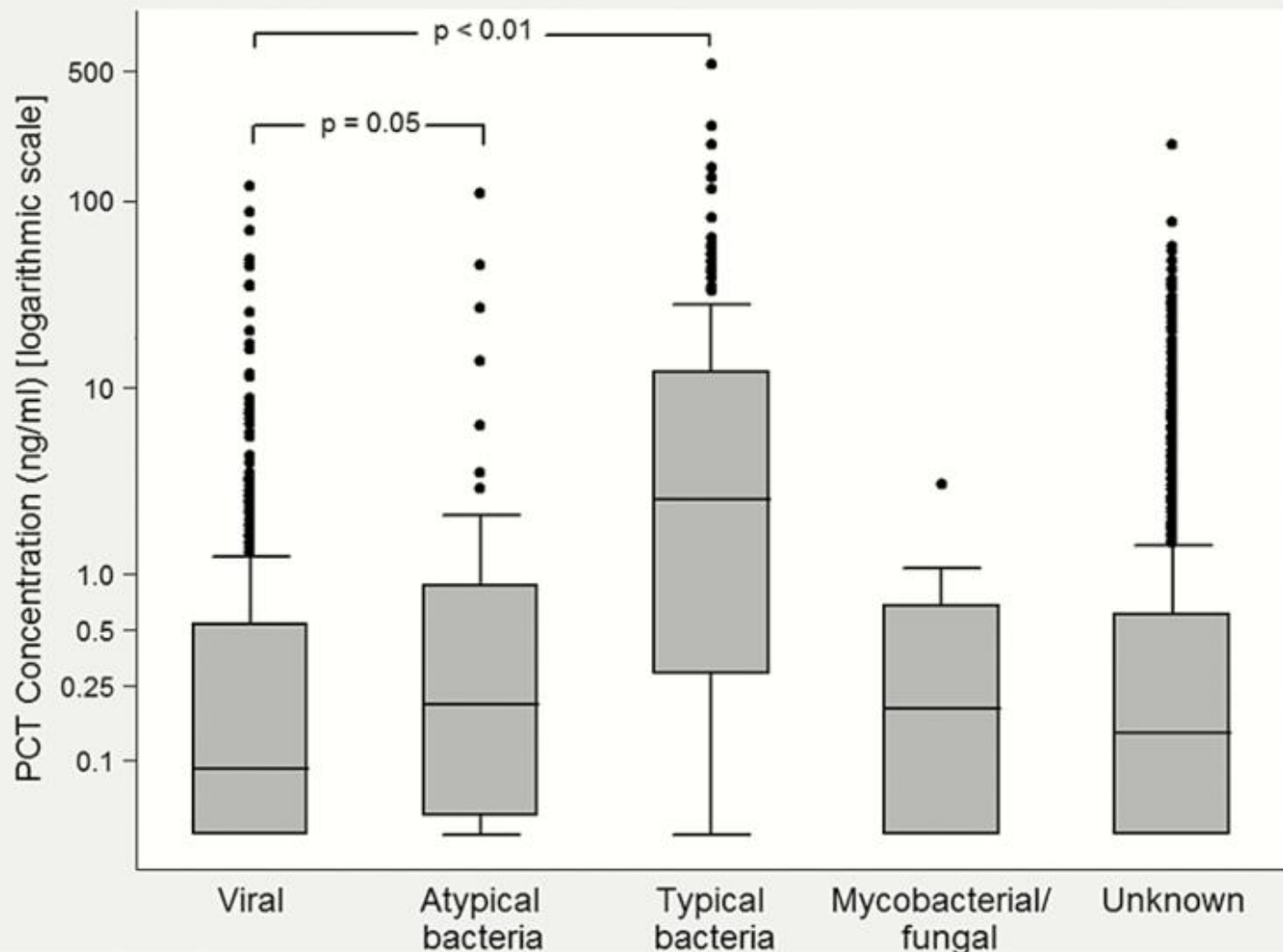
	0	1	3	5	7	9	11	>13
PCT	16	11	9	3	3	1	1	1
Control	41	38	35	19	8	3	0	0

Schuetz.JAMA.2009



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE



n patients	409	67	169	15	1,075
PCT median (ng/ml)	0.09	0.20	2.5	0.19	0.14
PCT IQR (ng/ml)	<0.05, 0.54	<0.05, 0.87	0.29, 12.2	<0.05, 0.68	<0.05, 0.61

# HOW CAN AN ID GUIDELINE BE SO NIHILISTIC ABOUT PATHOGEN TESTING?

- The guideline is driven by patient outcomes not microbiological results or epidemiological knowledge
- Very few RCTs of diagnostic tests with patient outcomes
- Empiric antibiotic therapy is very effective
- Except for influenza, what we mostly miss are BENIGN viral pathogens (or so we thought)



# TREATMENT



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

---

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

# What to use for outpatient therapy

## 2007

- Macrolides monotherapy is first line for outpatients
- Beta-lactam monotherapy not recommended

## 2019

- Macrolides no longer first line if local resistance is > 25%
- Beta-lactam monotherapy (amoxicillin) is recommended for uncomplicated CAP



# RISING PNEUMOCOCCAL RESISTANCE

Topic

Antibiotic resistance ▾

Year  Single year

From

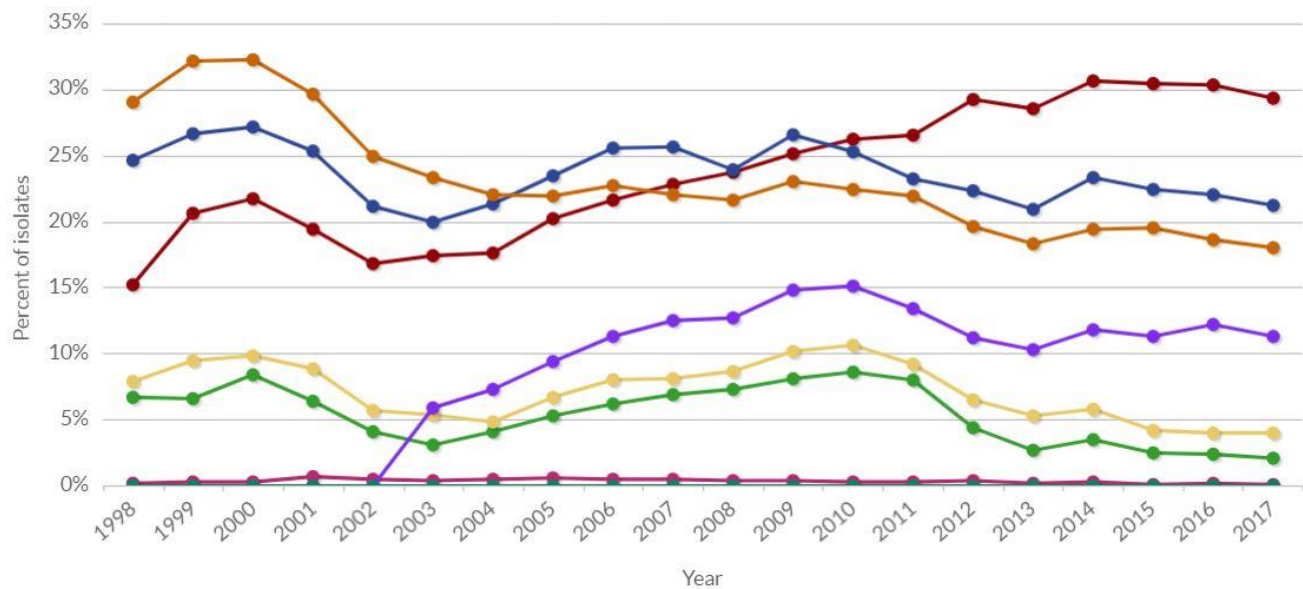
1998 ▾

To

2017 ▾

- Cefotaxime<sup>4</sup>
- Erythromycin
- Levofloxacin
- Penicillin<sup>1</sup>
- Penicillin<sup>2</sup>
- Tetracycline<sup>3</sup>
- TMPsulfa

Percent of invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates that were resistant\* to select antibiotics in ABCs areas



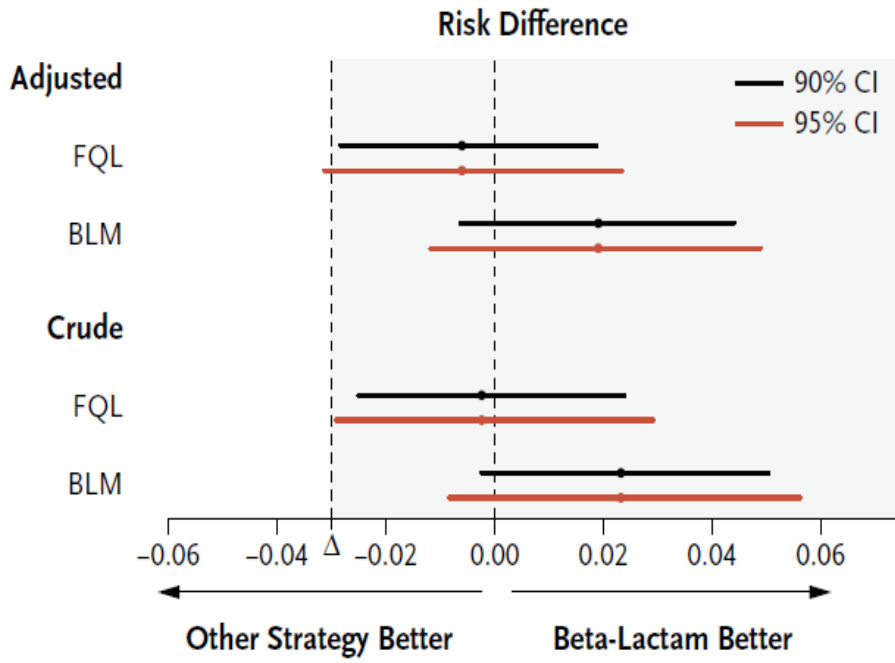
\*Resistant includes those isolates intermediate or fully resistant to antibiotics tested.



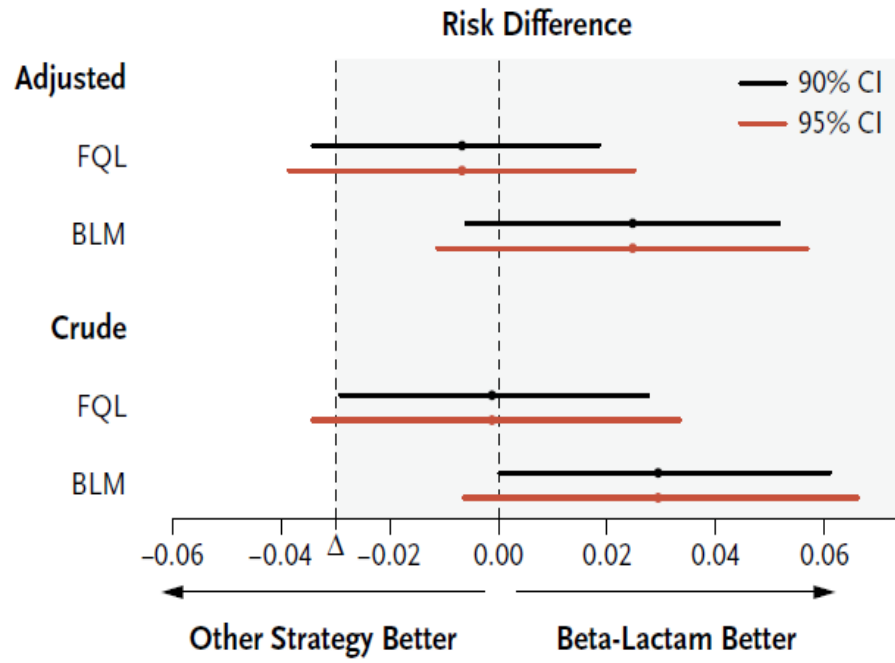
MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

**A** Intention-to-Treat Analysis



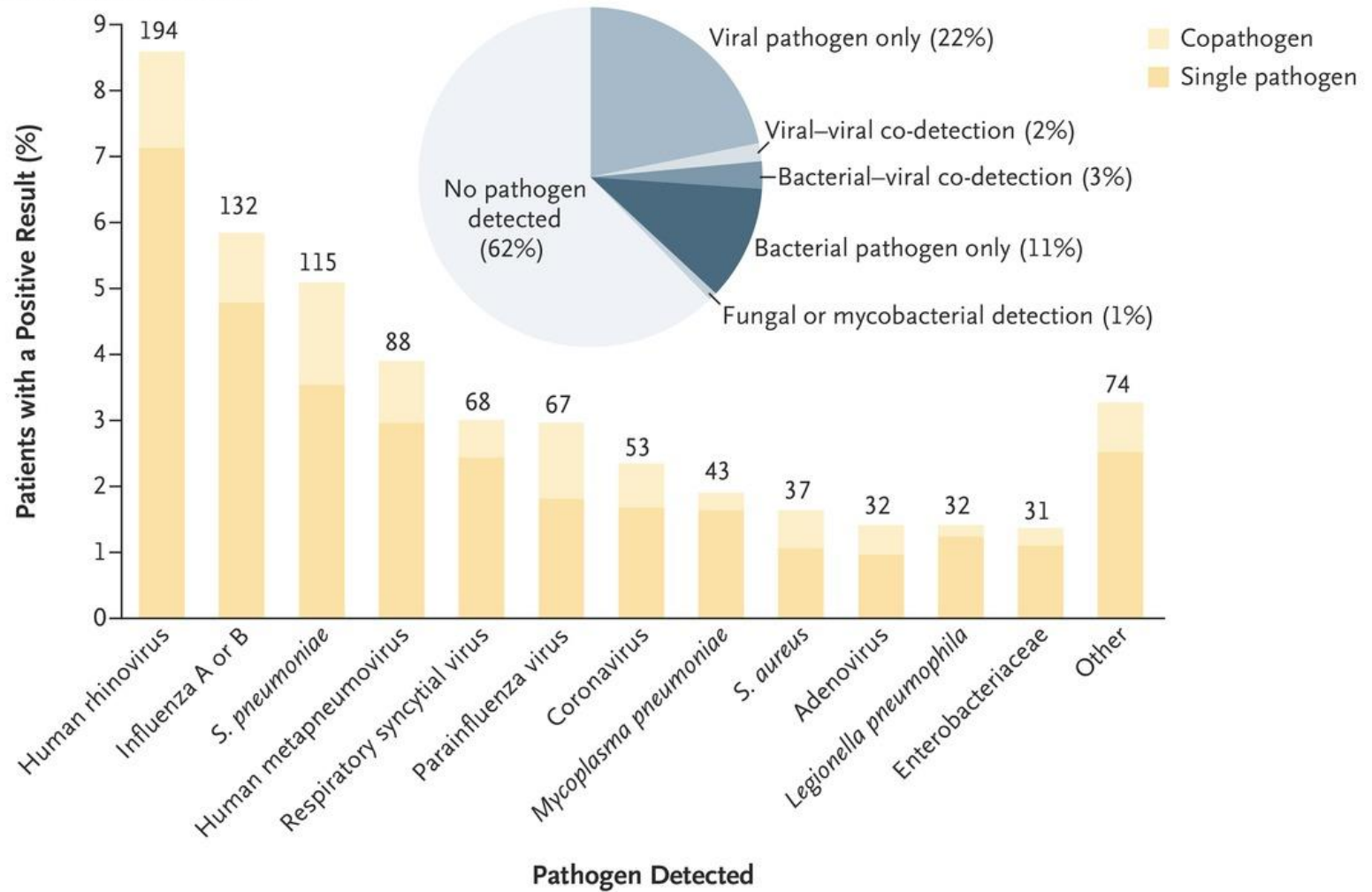
**B** Intention-to-Treat Analysis (radiologically confirmed CAP)



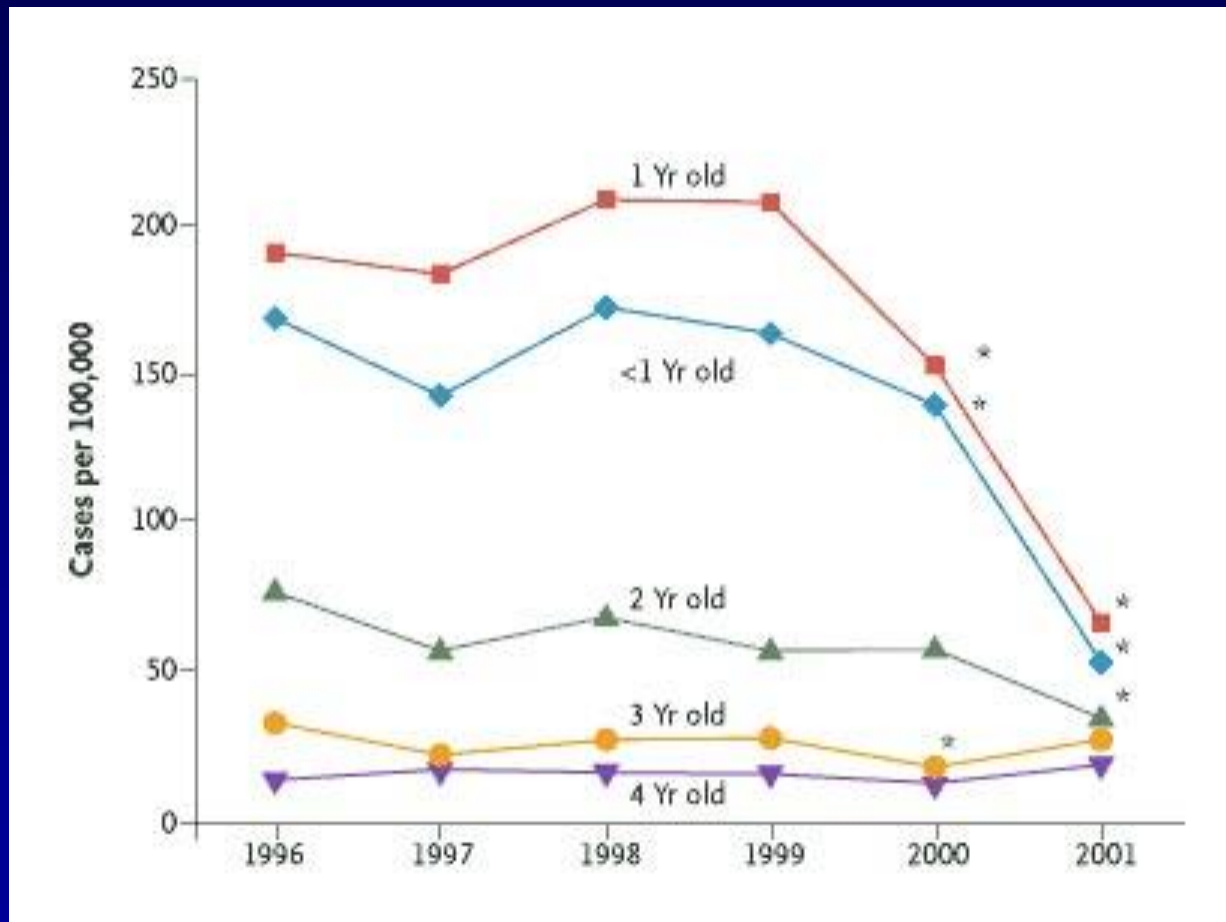
Postma. NEJM.2015



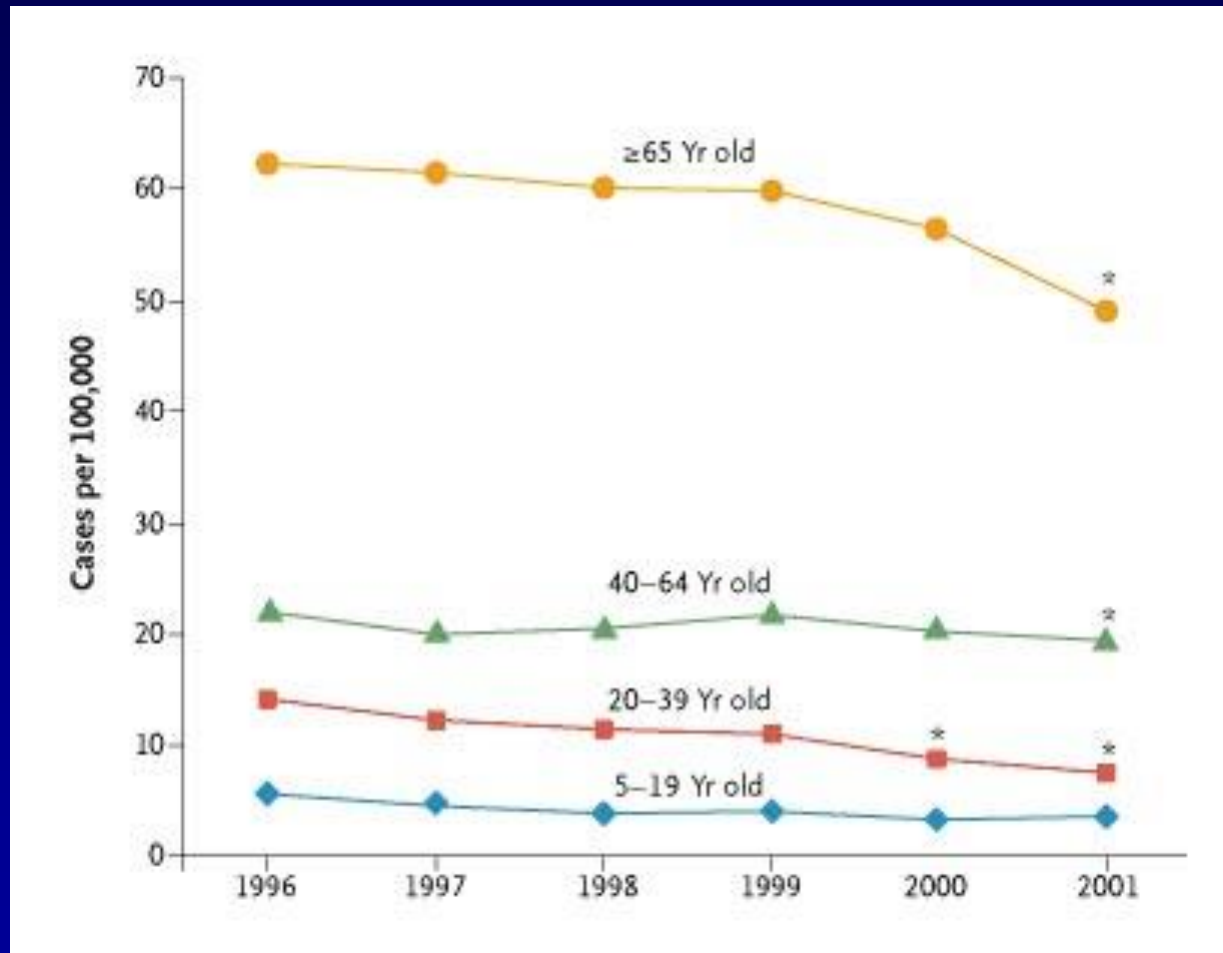
### A Specific Pathogens Detected



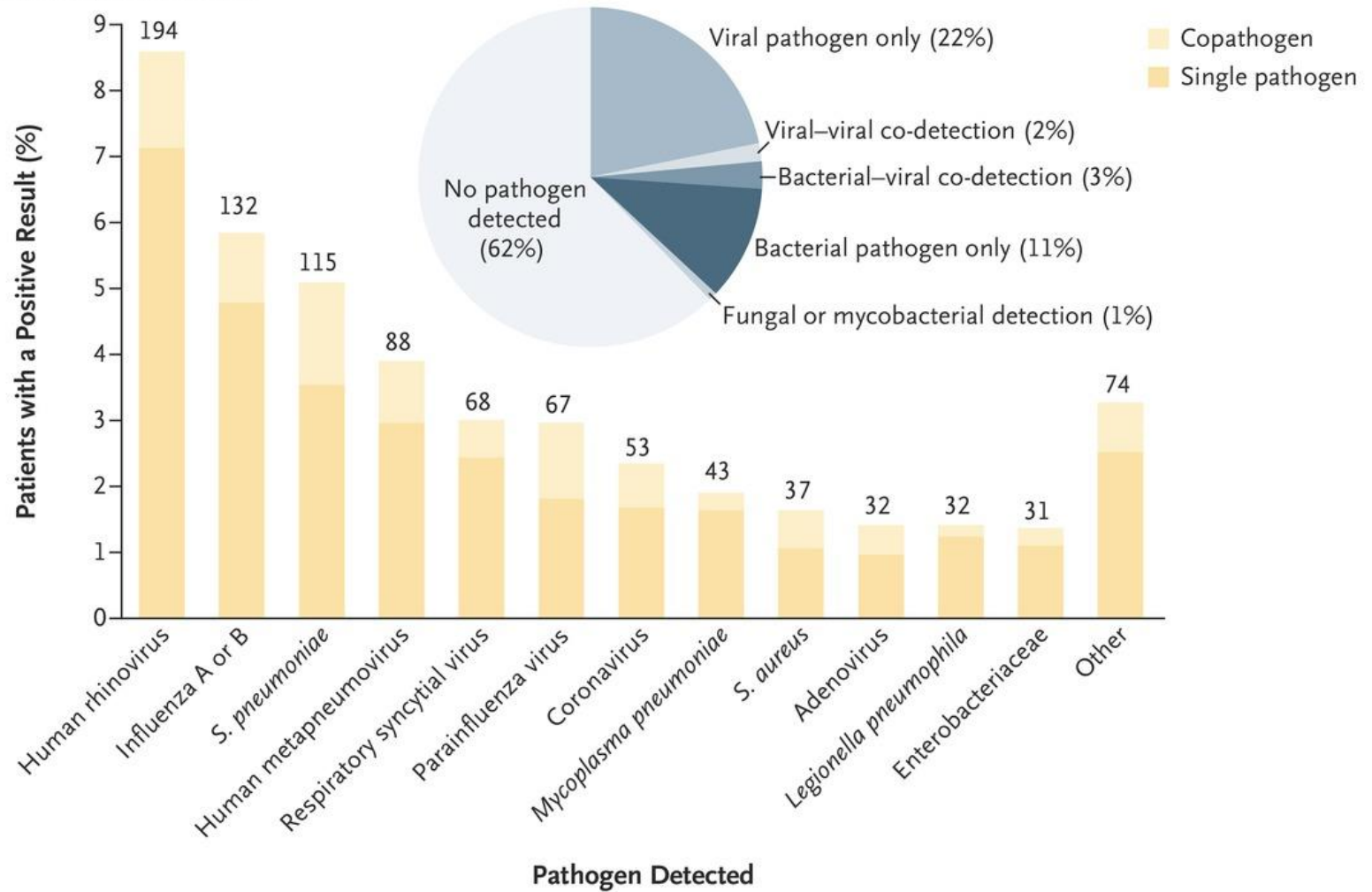
# Declining risk of invasive pneumococcal disease: children



# Declining risk of invasive pneumococcal disease: adults



### A Specific Pathogens Detected



# What to do about influenza

## 2007

- Oseltamivir for uncomplicated influenza if symptoms < 48 hours
- Treat with oseltamivir regardless of duration of symptoms if pneumonia present.

## 2019

- Same
- Initially treat with antibacterial drugs too
- Role for PCT?



# QUESTION 2

- A 67-year-old with a history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia presents with rapid onset of dyspnea, fever and productive cough. He was admitted to the hospital for knee replacement 3 months ago. He is mildly tachypneic with O2 sat of 88% on room air, corrected with 2 L NC. Chest radiograph demonstrates left lower lobe consolidated pneumonia. He is admitted to the hospital. Treatment choices:
  - A. Ceftriaxone alone
  - B. Ceftriaxone plus azithromycin
  - C. Levofloxacin
  - D. Vancomycin plus ceftriaxone plus azithromycin



# What happened to HCAP?

## 2007

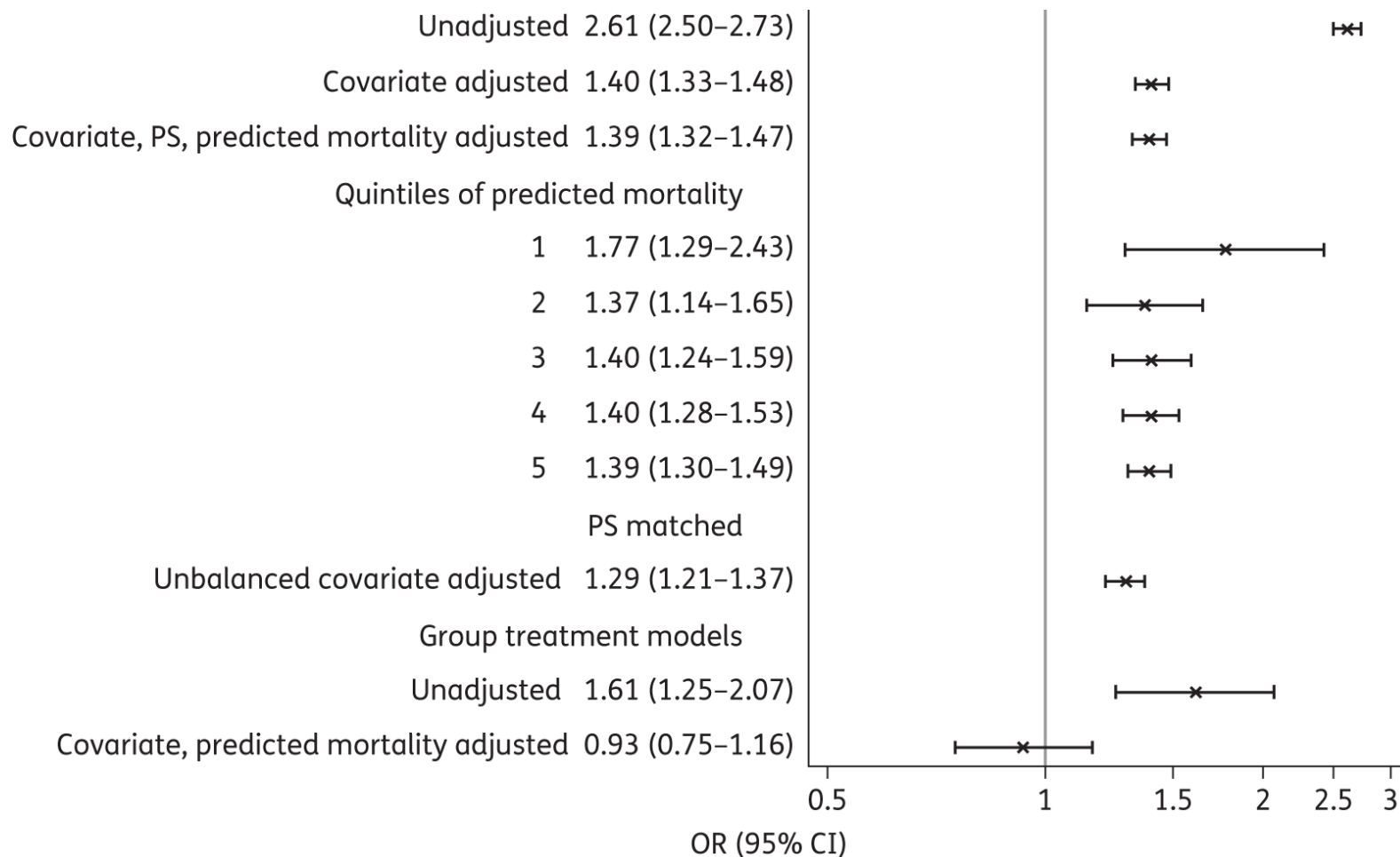
- Endorsed HCAP as a category
  - Nursing home residence
  - HD
  - Home iv antibiotics
  - Hospitalization in last 90 days
  - Home wound care
  - Household member with MDR infection

## 2019

- Eliminate HCAP as a category
  - Empiric treatment for MRSA and P. aeruginosa based on prior culture data
  - Always get cultures if treatment initiated
  - De-escalate if cultures are negative (including MRSA nasal swab)



# HCAP Treatment Associated with Worse Outcomes





# Should I worry about drug resistance?

## Outpatients

- Antibiotic resistant *S. pneumoniae*
  - Macrolides
- Beta-lactamase producing H flu
- MRSA

## Inpatients

- Antibiotic resistant *S. pneumoniae*
- MRSA
- *P. aeruginosa* and other enteric pathogens



**Table 4. Initial Treatment Strategies for Inpatients with Community-acquired Pneumonia by Level of Severity and Risk for Drug Resistance**

	Standard Regimen	Prior Respiratory Isolation of MRSA	Prior Respiratory Isolation of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Recent Hospitalization and Parenteral Antibiotics and Locally Validated Risk Factors for MRSA	Recent Hospitalization and Parenteral Antibiotics and Locally Validated Risk Factors for <i>P. aeruginosa</i>
Nonsevere inpatient pneumonia*	$\beta$ -Lactam + macrolide <sup>†</sup> or respiratory fluoroquinolone <sup>‡</sup>	Add MRSA coverage <sup>§</sup> and obtain cultures/nasal PCR to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <sup>  </sup> and obtain cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Obtain cultures but withhold MRSA coverage unless culture results are positive. If rapid nasal PCR is available, withhold additional empiric therapy against MRSA if rapid testing is negative or add coverage if PCR is positive and obtain cultures	Obtain cultures but initiate coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> only if culture results are positive
Severe inpatient pneumonia*	$\beta$ -Lactam + macrolide <sup>†</sup> or $\beta$ -lactam + fluoroquinolone <sup>‡</sup>	Add MRSA coverage <sup>§</sup> and obtain cultures/nasal PCR to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <sup>  </sup> and obtain cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add MRSA coverage <sup>§</sup> and obtain nasal PCR and cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <sup>  </sup> and obtain cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy

Definition of abbreviations: ATS = American Thoracic Society; CAP = community-acquired pneumonia; HAP = hospital-acquired pneumonia; IDSA = Infectious Diseases Society of America; MRSA = methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; VAP = ventilator-associated pneumonia.

\*As defined by 2007 ATS/IDSA CAP severity criteria guidelines (see Table 1).

<sup>†</sup>Ampicillin + sulbactam 1.5–3 g every 6 hours, cefotaxime 1–2 g every 8 hours, ceftriaxone 1–2 g daily, or ceftazidime 600 mg every 12 hours AND azithromycin 500 mg daily or clarithromycin 500 mg twice daily.

<sup>‡</sup>Levofloxacin 750 mg daily or moxifloxacin 400 mg daily.

<sup>§</sup>Per the 2016 ATS/IDSA HAP/VAP guidelines: vancomycin (15 mg/kg every 12 h, adjust based on levels) or linezolid (600 mg every 12 h).

<sup>||</sup>Per the 2016 ATS/IDSA HAP/VAP guidelines: piperacillin-tazobactam (4.5 g every 6 h), cefepime (2 g every 8 h), ceftazidime (2 g every 8 h), imipenem (500 mg every 6 h), meropenem (1 g every 8 h), or aztreonam (2 g every 8 h). Does not include coverage for extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae, which should be considered only on the basis of patient or local microbiological data.



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

What do  
we mean  
by  
“severe  
CAP”

**Validated definition includes either one major criterion or three or more minor criteria**

**Minor criteria**

Respiratory rate  $\geq 30$  breaths/min

$Pa_{O_2}/F_{I_{O_2}}$  ratio  $\leq 250$

Multilobar infiltrates

Confusion/disorientation

Uremia (blood urea nitrogen level  $\geq 20$  mg/dl)

Leukopenia\* (white blood cell count  $< 4,000$  cells/ $\mu$ l)

Thrombocytopenia (platelet count  $< 100,000$ / $\mu$ l)

Hypothermia (core temperature  $< 36^\circ$  C)

Hypotension requiring aggressive fluid resuscitation

**Major criteria**

Septic shock with need for vasopressors

Respiratory failure requiring mechanical ventilation



**Table 4.** Initial Treatment Strategies for Inpatients with Community-acquired Pneumonia by Level of Severity and Risk for Drug Resistance

	Standard Regimen	Prior Respiratory Isolation of MRSA	Prior Respiratory Isolation of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Recent Hospitalization and Parenteral Antibiotics and Locally Validated Risk Factors for MRSA	Recent Hospitalization and Parenteral Antibiotics and Locally Validated Risk Factors for <i>P. aeruginosa</i>
Nonsevere inpatient pneumonia*	β-Lactam + macrolide <sup>†</sup> or respiratory fluoroquinolone <sup>‡</sup>	Add MRSA coverage <sup>§</sup> and obtain cultures/nasal PCR to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <sup>  </sup> and obtain cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Obtain cultures but withhold MRSA coverage unless culture results are positive. If rapid nasal PCR is available, withhold additional empiric therapy against MRSA if rapid testing is negative or add coverage if PCR is positive and obtain cultures	Obtain cultures but initiate coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> only if culture results are positive
Severe inpatient pneumonia*	β-Lactam + macrolide <sup>†</sup> or β-lactam + fluoroquinolone <sup>‡</sup>	Add MRSA coverage <sup>§</sup> and obtain cultures/nasal PCR to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <sup>  </sup> and obtain cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add MRSA coverage <sup>§</sup> and obtain nasal PCR and cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy	Add coverage for <i>P. aeruginosa</i> <sup>  </sup> and obtain cultures to allow deescalation or confirmation of need for continued therapy

*Definition of abbreviations:* ATS = American Thoracic Society; CAP = community-acquired pneumonia; HAP = hospital-acquired pneumonia; IDSA = Infectious Diseases Society of America; MRSA = methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; VAP = ventilator-associated pneumonia.

\*As defined by 2007 ATS/IDSA CAP severity criteria guidelines (see Table 1).

<sup>†</sup>Ampicillin + sulbactam 1.5–3 g every 6 hours, cefotaxime 1–2 g every 8 hours, ceftriaxone 1–2 g daily, or ceftazidime 600 mg every 12 hours AND azithromycin 500 mg daily or clarithromycin 500 mg twice daily.

<sup>‡</sup>Levofloxacin 750 mg daily or moxifloxacin 400 mg daily.

<sup>§</sup>Per the 2016 ATS/IDSA HAP/VAP guidelines: vancomycin (15 mg/kg every 12 h, adjust based on levels) or linezolid (600 mg every 12 h).

<sup>||</sup>Per the 2016 ATS/IDSA HAP/VAP guidelines: piperacillin-tazobactam (4.5 g every 6 h), cefepime (2 g every 8 h), ceftazidime (2 g every 8 h), imipenem (500 mg every 6 h), meropenem (1 g every 8 h), or aztreonam (2 g every 8 h). Does not include coverage for extended-spectrum β-lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae, which should be considered only on the basis of patient or local microbiological data.



# Question 3

- The patient from the prior section was started on ceftriaxone plus azithromycin. On Day #2 his O2 requirement goes up to 4 L NC but he is otherwise stable. A repeat SARS-CoV-2 test is negative as are initial blood and sputum cultures. Options include:
  - A. Continue current treatment
  - B. Start prednisone 40 mg/day
  - C. Add vancomycin to cover for MRSA (which you should have done in the first place!)
  - D. Order Chest CT



# Should I use corticosteroids?

## 2007

- No mention of corticosteroids

## 2019

- Don't routinely use for CAP including severe CAP



Study, Year (Reference)

Participants, n/N  
Corticosteroids Control

Risk Ratio (95% CI)

Severe pneumonia

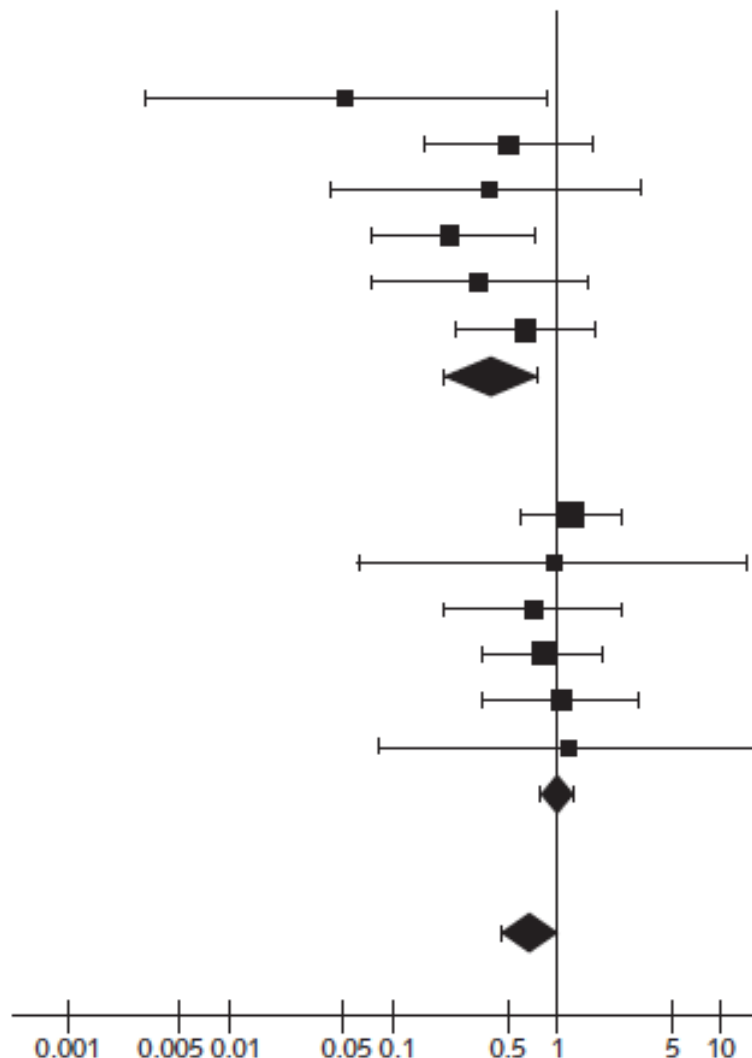
Confalonieri et al, 2005 (24)	0/23	8/21	0.05 (0.00–0.88)
El-Ghamrawy et al, 2006 (40)	3/17	6/17	0.50 (0.15–1.68)
Mark et al, 1993 (48)	1/14	3/16	0.38 (0.04–3.26)
Nafae et al, 2013 (41)	4/60	6/20	0.22 (0.07–0.71)
Sabry and Omar, 2011 (47)	2/40	6/40	0.33 (0.07–1.55)
Torres et al, 2015 (17)	6/61	9/59	0.64 (0.24–1.70)
Random effects: $I^2 = 0\%$			0.39 (0.20–0.77)

Less severe pneumonia

Blum et al, 2015 (16)	16/392	13/393	1.23 (0.60–2.53)
Fernández-Serrano et al, 2011 (46)	1/23	1/22	0.96 (0.06–14.37)
McHardy and Schonell, 1972 (45)	3/40	9/86	0.72 (0.20–2.51)
Meljvis et al, 2011 (43)	9/151	11/153	0.83 (0.35–1.92)
Snijders et al, 2010 (42)	6/104	6/109	1.05 (0.35–3.15)
Wagner et al, 1956 (39)	1/52	1/61	1.17 (0.08–18.30)
Random effects: $I^2 = 0\%$			1.00 (0.79–1.26)

Total

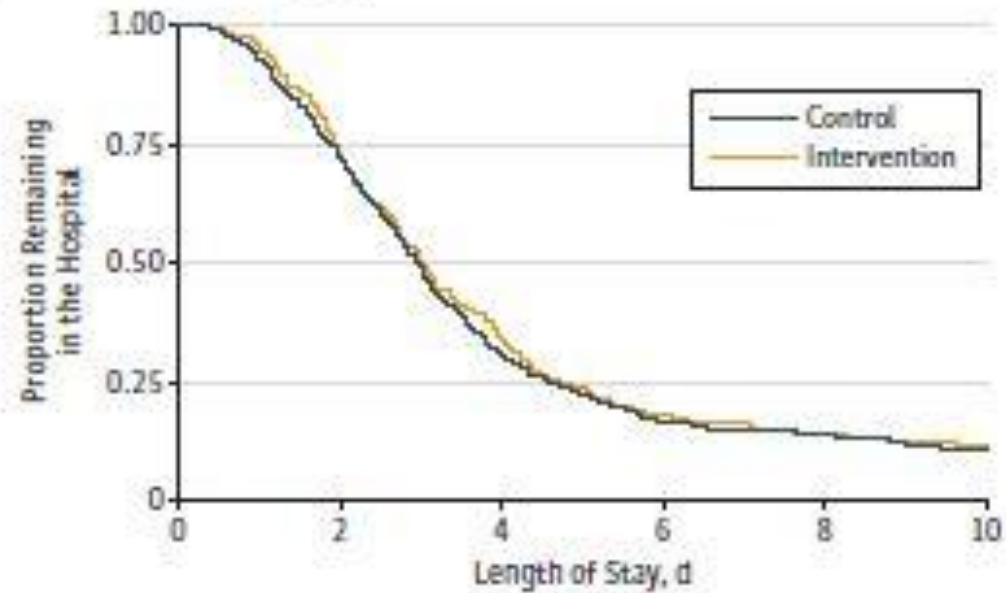
Random effects: $I^2 = 6\%$ ; Interaction $P = 0.010$			0.67 (0.45–1.01)
---	--	--	------------------



# Steroids and CAP

Figure 2. Primary Outcome

A Control vs Intervention groups



No. at risk	0	2	4	6	8	10
Control	399	289	123	66	55	41
Intervention	379	276	131	69	53	43



# AND THEN CAME 2020



FOUNDED BY BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL  
AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

## Coronavirus Update

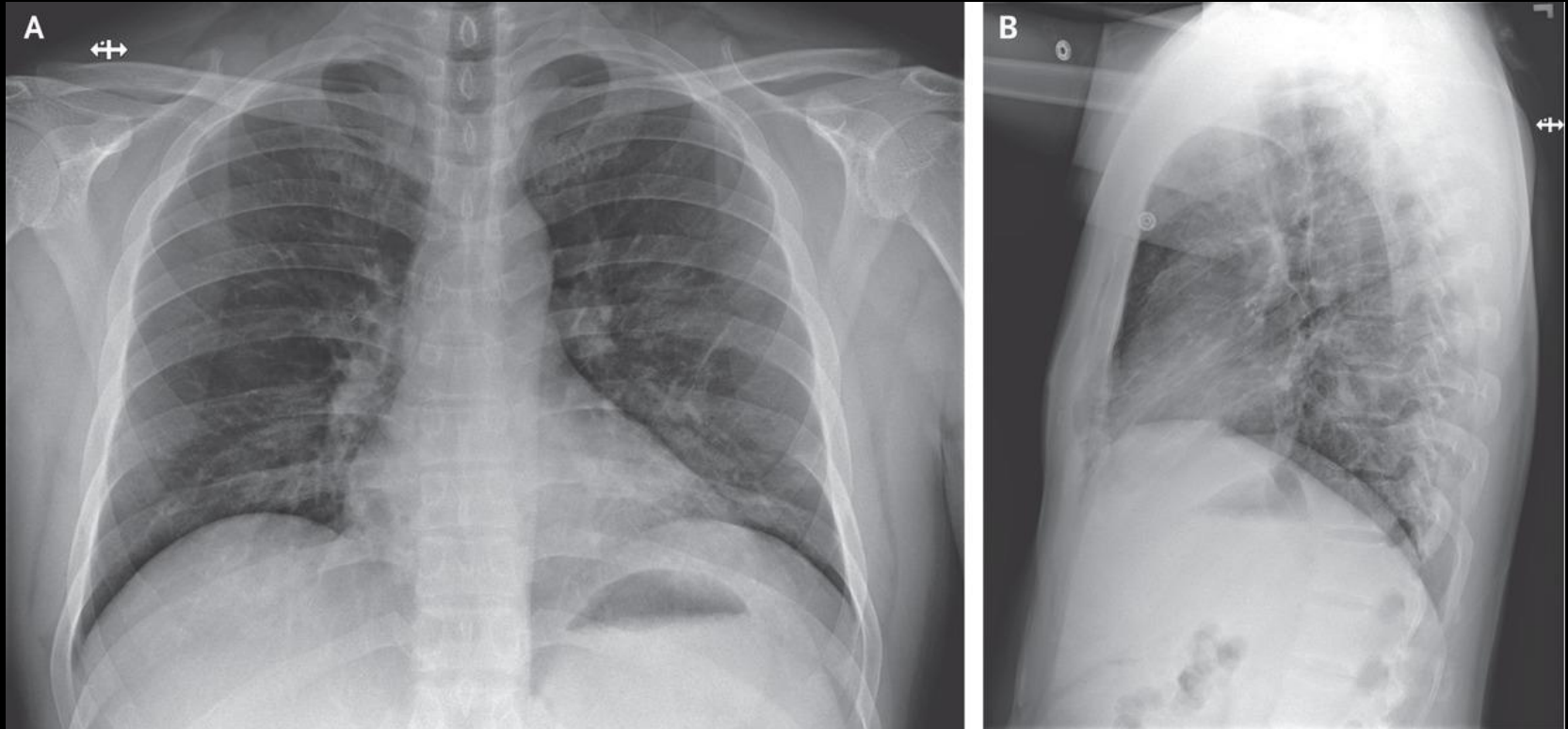
*March 6, 2020*



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

# Anteroposterior and Lateral Chest Radiographs, January 26, 2020 (Illness Day 10, Hospital Day 6).



*Clinical Infectious Diseases*

MAJOR ARTICLE



# Bacterial and Fungal Coinfection in Individuals With Coronavirus: A Rapid Review To Support COVID-19 Antimicrobial Prescribing

Timothy M. Rawson,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Luke S. P. Moore,<sup>1,4,5</sup> Nina Zhu,<sup>1</sup> Nishanthy Ranganathan,<sup>3,4</sup> Keira Skolimowska,<sup>3,4</sup> Mark Gilchrist,<sup>3,4</sup> Giovanni Satta,<sup>3,4</sup> Graham Cooke,<sup>3,4</sup> and Alison Holmes<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

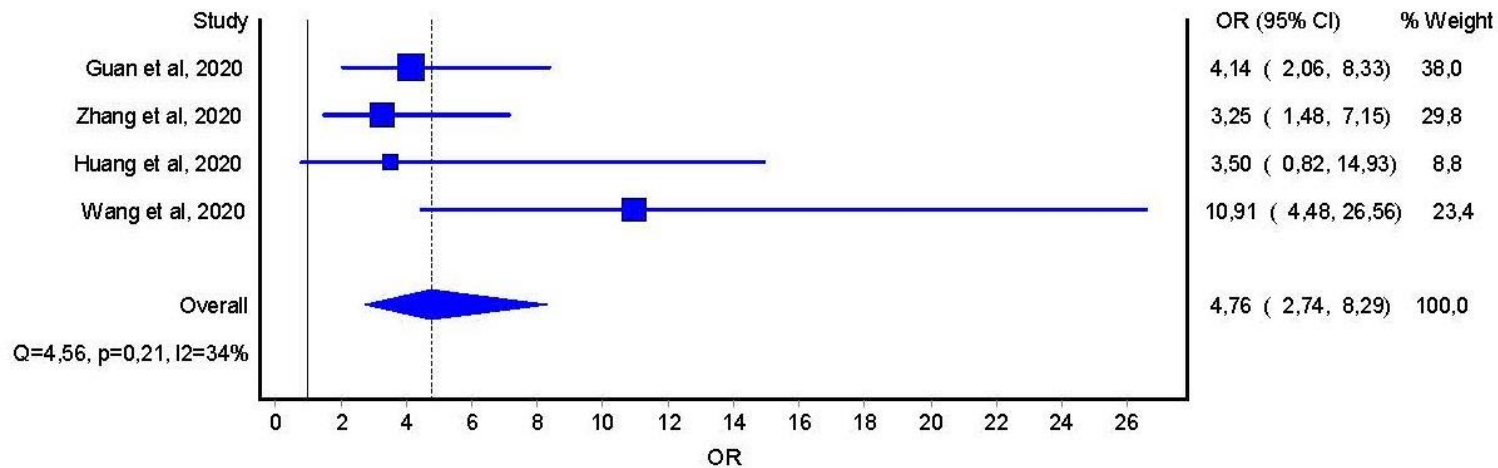
For COVID-19 (N=9 studies), 62/806 (8%) patients were reported as experiencing bacterial/fungal coinfection during hospital admission.

BUT 72% received antibacterial therapy.

# THE RETURN OF PROCALCITONIN

or

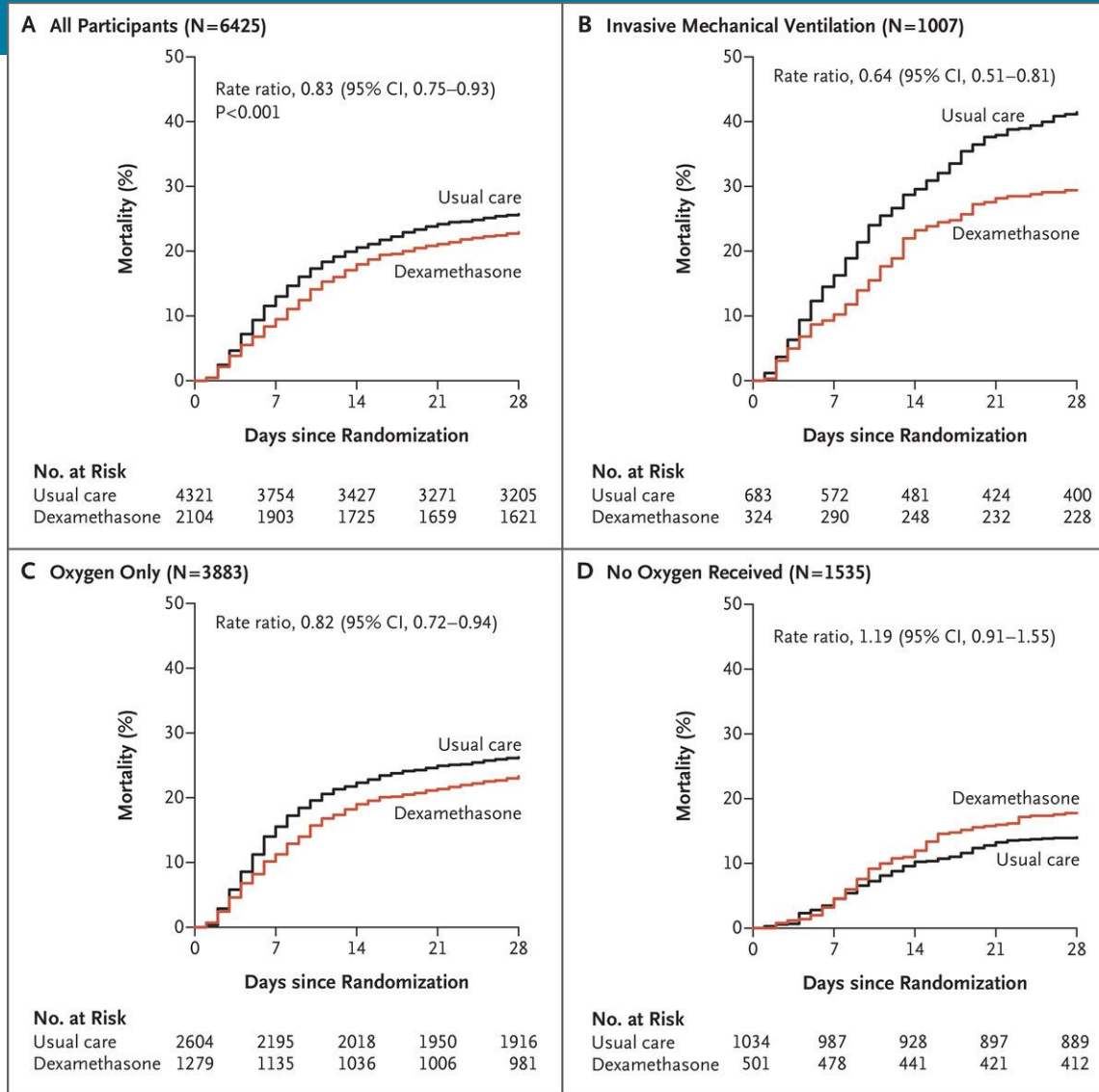
*Clinica Chimica Acta 505 (2020) 190–191*



PCT above normal range predicting odds of admission to ICU in COVID-19



# MORTALITY AT 28 DAYS IN ALL PATIENTS AND ACCORDING TO RESPIRATORY SUPPORT AT RANDOMIZATION.



# ADULT CAP GUIDELINE COMMITTEE

- Joshua Metlay Co-Chair
- Grant Waterer Co-Chair
- Ann Long
- Antonio Anzueto
- Jan Brozek
- Kristina Crothers
- Laura Cooley
- Nathan Dean
- Michael Fine
- Scott Flanders
- Marie Griffin
- Mark Metersky
- Daniel Musher
- Marcos Restrepo
- Cynthia Whitney



# Take Home Points

- Pneumonia remains primarily a clinical diagnosis though emerging molecular platforms are changing some of the testing paradigms
- Antibiotic treatment is primarily empiric. Concern for drug resistant pathogens remains but should be guided by past infections and micro testing.
- Corticosteroids do not clearly improve outcomes for patients with bacterial pneumonia.

