

# Preface

Despite many advances in antibiotic therapies, diagnostic tools and strategies for prevention, pneumonia is still the primary cause of death from infectious disease worldwide. The key factor for the increased mortality is the effect of pneumonia on comorbidities and underlying diseases, along with the rising age of the population and the virulence of the pathogens. The increasing number of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a matter of concern for clinicians when choosing antibiotic treatment in patients with pneumonia. In general, the management of pneumonia presents a major challenge for the clinicians. The optimum outcome for pneumonia can be achieved by careful risk stratification, accurate assessment of severity, and appropriate antibiotic therapy.

In the last decade several international and national societies have released guidelines for the management of pneumonia (community- and hospital-acquired pneumonia), including recommendations for initial antibiotic treatment, microbiological testing, decision to hospitalize and admit to the intensive care unit, and management of non-responding patients. Recent studies show that implementation of guidelines for the management of pneumonia is followed by improvement in outcomes, including mortality.

This handbook summarizes important features and management issues of bacterial pneumonia, including the latest information on microbiological etiology, clinical course, diagnostic testing, and antimicrobial treatment and prevention.

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