

Community Acquired Pneumonia - Definitions, Epidemiology And Risk Factors

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Abstract

Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) refers to an infectious process resulting from the invasion and overgrowth of microorganisms in lung parenchyma in a non-hospitalized population. Occurrence of respiratory symptoms or signs in the presence of a chest infiltrate is essential for the diagnosis of CAP. CAP occurs in all age groups but children less than 5 years, the elderly and those with underlying risk factor(s) are particularly susceptible. CAP may be classified and managed by morphological patterns, etiological organism and empirical 'host-organism pattern' approach. Host factors play an important role in determining the severity of CAP and certain risk factors are associated with specific disease patterns and specific microorganisms.

Key Words: Community-acquired pneumonia, risk factor, epidemiology, etiology, micro-organism.