

Community-Acquired Pneumonia

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Edited by

Thomas J. Marrie

*University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada*

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Contributors

Stephen A. Berger Departments of Geographic Medicine and Clinical Microbiology, Tel Aviv Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel

Steven L. Berk James H. Quillen College of Medicine, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee 37614

Robert F. Breiman National Vaccine Program Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Jay C. Butler Arctic Investigations Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Thomas R. Cate Department of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, Texas 77030-3498

Dennis James Cleri Internal Medicine Residency, St. Francis Medical Center, Trenton, New Jersey 08629

Burke A. Cunha State University of New York School of Medicine, Stony Brook, New York 11790

Ross J. Davidson Division of Microbiology, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, and Departments of Medicine, Pathology, and Microbiology and Immunology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4H7

Christopher W. H. Davies Osler Chest Unit and Department of Radiology, The Churchill Hospital, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, England

Herbert Dele Davies Child Health Research Unit, Alberta Children's Hospital and University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T6G 2B7

Robert J. O. Davies Osler Chest Unit and Department of Radiology, The Churchill Hospital, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, England

Scott F. Davies University of Minnesota, School of Medicine and Pulmonary Service, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Santiago Ewig Medizinische Universitätsklinik und Poliklinik Bonn, Innere Medizin-Pneumologie, Sigmund Freud Str. 25, 53105 Bonn, Germany

Ann. R. Falsey Department of Medicine, Rochester General Hospital, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, Rochester, New York 14621

Alan Fein Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, New York 10025

Barry S. Fields Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Disease, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Mailstop C02, Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Thomas M. File, Jr. Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Rootstown, Ohio 44272 and Summa Health Systems, Akron, Ohio 44304

Jay A. Fishman Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Kevin Forward Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Dalhousie University and Queen Elizabeth II Health Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2Y9 Canada

- Keiji Fukuda** Influenza Branch, Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia 30333
- Fergus V. Gleeson** Osler Chest Unit and Department of Radiology, The Churchill Hospital, Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ, England
- David J. M. Haldane** Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, and Departments of Microbiology and Immunology and Pathology and Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4H7
- Todd F. Hatchette** Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H7, Canada
- Diane H. Johnson** Infectious Disease Division, Winthrop University Hospital, Mineola, New York 11510
- B. Lynn Johnston** Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University and Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4H7
- Jay S. Keystone** Tropical Disease Unit, Division of Infectious Disease, The Toronto Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 2C4
- Steven H. Kirtland** Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington 98111
- Natalie C. Klein** Infectious Disease Division, Winthrop University Hospital, Mineola, New York 11510
- Irma Helena Koivula** Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Disease (4620), Kuopio University Hospital, SF-70211, Kuopio, Finland
- Joanne M. Langley** Community Health and Epidemiology, Dalhousie University, and Infection Control Services, Izaak Walton Killam Grace Health Centre for Children, Women and Families, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3H 4H7
- Richard W. Light** Saint Thomas Hospital and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee 37205
- Mark Logan** Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2Y9 Canada
- Kelly S. Macdonald** Mount Sinai and Princess Margaret Hospitals, and Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 1X5
- Thomas J. Marrie** Department of Medicine, Walter C. McKenzie Health Sciences Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2B7
- Randy Marton** St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Paterson, New Jersey 07501
- David G. McCormack** London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Campus, London, Ontario N6A 4G5, Canada
- Dick Menzies** Montreal Chest Institute, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, H3A 1A3 Canada
- Claudia Molina** University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas 77555-0609
- Julio S. G. Montaner** British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Department of Medicine, St. Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6E 1B2
- Valentina Carla Montessori** British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and Department of Medicine, St. Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6E 1B2
- Jock Murray** MS Research Unit, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H7, Canada
- James W. Myers** James H. Quillen College of Medicine, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee 37614
- Åke Örtqvist** Department of Infectious Diseases, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska Hospital, S-171 76, Stockholm, Sweden
- David Ost** Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, New York 10025

- Ward Patrick** Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2Y9, Canada
- Masis Perk** Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H7 Canada
- Joseph F. Plouffe** Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University Medical Center, Columbus, Ohio 43210
- Colin Powell** Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H7 Canada
- Mohammed Rabbat** St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Paterson, New Jersey 07501
- Julio A. Ramirez** Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40202
- Jordi Rello** Critical Care Department, Hospital Univeristy Joan XXIII, Univeristy Rovira & Virgili, Carrer Dr. Mallafre Gausch, 43007 Tarragona, Spain
- Kenneth Rockwood** Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4H7 Canada
- Anna Rozenshtein** Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, New York 10025
- Robert H. Rubin** Center for Experimental Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Harvard-Massachusetts Institute of Technology Division of Health Sciences and Technology, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts 02114
- Marcio Sa-Borges** Intensive Care Department, Hospital Doce de Octubre, 28009 Madrid, Spain
- George A. Sarosi** Indiana University School of Medicine, and Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202
- Gerry Schaller** Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2Y9 Canada
- Walter F. Schlech III** Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H7, Canada
- Stephen D. Shafran** Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5A 1B0
- Andrew E. Simor** Department of Microbiology, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto, North York, Ontario M4N 3M5, Canada
- Steven Q. Simpson** Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, University of Kansas, Kansas City, Kansas 66160
- Larry J. Strausbaugh** Infectious Diseases Section, Medical Service, Veterans' Affairs Medical Center, and the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, Oregon Health Sciences, University, Portland, Oregon 97201
- Henry Su** Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington 98111
- Kathryn N. Suh** Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6
- James T. Summersgill** Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40202
- James S. Tan** Infectious Disease Section, Department of Internal Medicine, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Rootstown, Ohio 44272 and Department of Medicine, Summa Health Systems, Akron, Ohio 44304
- Antoni Torres** Hospital Clinic I Provincial, Servei de Pneumologia I Allergia Respiratoria, Villarroel 170, 08036 Barcelona, Spain
- Claire Touchie** Division of General Medicine, The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1H 8L6
- John Vernaleo** Western Queens Community Hospital, Astoria, Queens, New York 11102

David H. Walker University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas 77555-0609

Elaine E. Wang Department of Pediatrics, The Hospital for Sick Children, and University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A8 Canada

Richard H. Winterbauer Section of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, Washington 98111

Mark Woodhead Department of Respiratory Medicine, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9WL, United Kingdom

Dick Zoutman Infection Control Service, Kingston General Hospital, and School of Medicine, Faculty of Health Services, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 2V7, Canada

Preface

Pneumonia is a formidable challenge for both the patient and the physician. For the patient, it is a life-threatening illness. Indeed, for many of us who may be fortunate enough to live to an old age (80 or more years), pneumonia is often the final common pathway for a number of illnesses that can result in one's demise. In this setting, we must hope that our physician will be able to integrate both the art and science of medicine. For the physician, the challenge is that the causative agent of the pneumonia is often unknown and that there are a large number of agents that could be causing the pneumonia.

This book is an attempt to meet the challenge posed by pneumonia. As such, there are chapters on its history, on end-of-life decision making, empiric therapy, critical pathways for its treatment, as well as on pneumonia in specific populations and pneumonia due to specific microorganisms.

This book will be a success if it stimulates at least one reader to study pneumonia, in hopes of answering some of the many questions that still remain.

Thomas J. Marrie

Contents

Chapter 1	
The Captain of the Men of Death: The History of Pneumonia	1
JOCK MURRAY	
The Earliest Records	1
The Early Descriptions	1
The Clinical Examination of Pneumonia	3
To Bleed or Not to Bleed?	4
Pneumonia in the American Civil War	5
Pneumonia in Hospital and in General Practice	5
The Advent of Serotherapy	6
Osler's Approach to the Captain of the Men of Death	6
World War I and the Influenza Pandemic	7
After the War	8
The Development of Penicillin	9
The Development of Sulfa Drugs	9
The Massachusetts Pneumonia Study and Service	10
Mycoplasma Pneumonia (Primary Atypical Pneumonia)	10
Recent Events in Pneumonia	10
References	11
Chapter 2	
Epidemiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia	13
IRMA KOIVULA	
Introduction	13
Incidence of Community-Acquired Pneumonia	14
Risk Factors for Pneumonia in the Elderly	19
Death from Pneumonia	22
References	23
Chapter 3	
Community-Acquired Pneumonia: Clinical Features and Outcomes	29
THOMAS J. MARRIE	
Introduction	29
Symptoms at Presentation	29
Accuracy of Clinical Findings for Diagnosing CAP	30
Comorbid Illnesses in Patients with CAP Who Require Admission to Hospitals	31
Outcomes	32

Complications	32
Resolution of Symptoms	32
Pneumonia Syndromes	32
Cost of Treating Community-Acquired Pneumonia	33
Summary	33
References	33
Chapter 4	
Laboratory Diagnosis of Community-Acquired Pneumonia	35
ROSS J. DAVIDSON AND KELLY S. MACDONALD	
Introduction	35
Sputum Gram's Stain and Culture	35
Blood Cultures	37
Bronchoscopic Methods	37
Antigen Detection Methods	39
Serology	40
References	41
Chapter 5	
PCR Techniques in the Diagnosis of Pneumonia Due to <i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i> , <i>Legionella</i> Species, and <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	45
BARRY S. FIELDS	
Introduction	45
<i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i>	45
Legionellae and <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> , <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	46
PCR-Based Epidemiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia	48
Conclusions	52
References	52
Chapter 6	
Imaging Community-Acquired Pneumonia	55
GERRY SCHALLER AND MARK LOGAN	
Introduction	55
The Role of the Chest Radiograph	55
Technical Considerations	56
Systematic Approach to the Chest Radiograph	57
Radiographic Appearance of Pneumonia	58
Pneumonia Pattern Recognition	67
Specific Pneumonia Patterns	70
Location of the Pneumonia	77
Lymphadenopathy	78
Specific Etiologies	80
Specific Complications of Pneumonia	90
Additional Imaging—Chest Radiographs	93
Additional Imaging—Other Modalities	96
References	99

Chapter 7
 The Pathology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia 101
 CLAUDIA MOLINA AND DAVID H. WALKER

Lobar Pneumonia 101
 Bronchopneumonia 102
 Interstitial Pneumonia 102
 Mixed Patterns 103
 Miliary Pattern 103
 The Pathology of Specific Agents 103
 Chemical Pneumonia 122
 References 124

Chapter 8
 Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia 131
 THOMAS J. MARRIE

Introduction 131
 Overview of the Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia 132
 Bacteremic Community-Acquired Pneumonia 132
 Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia Treated on an Ambulatory Basis 134
 Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia among Patients Requiring Admission to Hospital 134
 Etiology of Nursing Home-Acquired Pneumonia 134
 Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia among Patients Who Require Admission to
 an Intensive Care Unit 139
 Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Military Personnel 139
 Etiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Other Subgroups of Patients 139
 References 140

Chapter 9
 Nursing Home-Acquired Pneumonia 143
 ANDREW E. SIMOR

Introduction 143
 Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Outcome 143
 Host Defenses and Pathogenesis 145
 Microbial Etiology 147
 Specific Pathogens 149
 Clinical Features 151
 Diagnosis 152
 Treatment 153
 Infection Control and Prevention 154
 Summary and Future Studies 155
 References 156

Chapter 10
 Treatment of Community-Acquired Pneumonia 163
 MARK WOODHEAD

Introduction 163

Is It Community-Acquired Pneumonia? 164
 Assessment of Illness Severity 165
 Where Should the Patient be Managed? 167
 Principles of Antimicrobial Therapy 167
 Guidelines for Empirical Oral, Intravenous, and Switch Therapy 170
 Conclusions 175
 References 175

Chapter 11

Pathophysiology of Pneumonia and the Clinical Consequences 179
 WARD PATRICK

Introduction 179
 Routes of Bacterial Exposure 179
 Host Defenses of the Upper Airway 180
 Host Defenses of the Lower Airway 181
 Effect of Pneumonia on Lung Mechanics and Pulmonary Function Testing 181
 Pathophysiology of Abnormal Gas Exchange in Pneumonia 183
 Septic Shock Associated with Pneumonia 185
 Definitions from ACCP/SCCM Consensus Conference 185
 Pathophysiology of Septic Shock at a Cellular Level 186
 Clinical Presentation of Pneumonia with Septic Shock 187
 References 189

Chapter 12

Intensive Care Unit Management of Pneumonia 193
 THOMAS J. NOLAN AND DAVID G. MCCORMACK

Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia 193
 Pathogens of Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia 193
 Diagnosis 196
 Treatment 196
 Complications of Severe Community-Acquired Pneumonia 199
 Prognosis 202
 Summary 202
 References 203

Chapter 13

End-of-Life Decision-Making in Community-Acquired Pneumonia 205
 KENNETH ROCKWOOD AND COLIN POWELL

Introduction 205
 An Approach to End-of-Life Decision-Making 205
 Providing Palliative Care 213
 Summary 217
 References 217

Chapter 14
 Prevention of Community-Acquired Pneumonia: Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccines 221
 JAY C. BUTLER, KEIJI FUKUDA, AND ROBERT F. BREIMAN

Introduction 221
 Influenza Vaccines 222
 Pneumococcal Vaccines 227
 References 233

Chapter 15
 Aspiration Pneumonia 239
 MARCIO SA-BORGES AND JORDI RELLO

Introduction 239
 Classification 239
 Risk Factors and Prevention 240
 Aspiration of Fluid 242
 Aspiration of Solid Particles 244
 Aspiration of Pathogenic Bacteria 246
 Treatment 249
 Conclusions 252
 References 253

Chapter 16
 Complicated Pleural Effusion in Community-Acquired Pneumonia 257
 RICHARD W. LIGHT

Definitions and Introduction 257
 History 257
 Natural History of Parapneumonic Effusions 258
 Classification of Parapneumonic Effusions 259
 Animal Studies of Empyema 260
 Clinical Manifestations 263
 Diagnosis 264
 Options for Treatment of Complicated Parapneumonic Effusions 266
 Recommended Management of Parapneumonic Effusions 269
 References 270

Chapter 17
 A Critical Pathway for the Treatment of Community-Acquired Pneumonia 273
 THOMAS J. MARRIE

Introduction 273
 Antibiotic Therapy 275
 Discharge Decision 276
 Prevention 276
 Critical Pathways 276
 Follow-up Chest Radiographs 277
 Pneumonia Complications 277
 Laboratory Investigation 277

Physician Behavioral Change as a Result of Continuing Medical Education	277
Exclusion Criteria	278
Implementation of the Pneumonia Critical Pathway	278
References	279
Chapter 18	
Pneumonia in Pregnancy	283
JOANNE M. LANGLEY	
The Pregnant Woman as a Host: Respiratory and Immunologic Changes	283
Epidemiology of Pneumonia in Pregnancy	284
Clinical Features	285
Diagnosis	287
Treatment	288
References	289
Chapter 19	
Pneumonia in Children and Adolescents	293
ELAINE EE LING WANG AND HERBERT DELE DAVIES	
Epidemiology	293
Etiologic Agents	293
Clinical Findings	294
Diagnosis	296
Management	298
Conclusions and Research Priorities	300
References	300
Chapter 20	
Pneumonia in HIV-Infected Patients	305
WALTER F. SCHLECH III	
Introduction	305
Immunologic Defects in HIV Infection	305
The Changing Epidemiology of Community-Acquired Pneumonia in Patients with HIV Infection	306
Pneumococcal Pneumonia in HIV-Positive Patients	308
Other Bacterial Pneumonias Associated with HIV Infection	309
Community-Acquired Viral Pneumonia in HIV Infection	312
Community-Acquired Fungal Infection in HIV-Infected Patients	314
Approach to Pneumonia in HIV-Infected Patients	315
References	317
Chapter 21	
Community-Acquired Pneumonia in the Immunocompromised Host	321
ROBERT H. RUBIN AND JAY A. FISHMAN	
Risk of Pneumonia in the Immunocompromised Host	322
Clinical Clues to the Diagnosis of Pulmonary Infection in the Immunocompromised Host	323

Radiologic Evaluation	324
Timetable of Infection	325
Noninfectious Causes of Pneumonia in Immunocompromised Patients	326
Infectious Causes of Pneumonia in the Immunocompromised Host	328
Diagnostic Approach to Pneumonia in the Immunocompromised Host	332
References	333
 Chapter 22	
Chronic Bacterial Pneumonia	337
STEVEN H. KIRTLAND AND RICHARD H. WINTERBAUER	
Introduction	337
History	337
Definition	337
Epidemiology	338
Clinical Presentation	338
Roentgenography	340
Bronchoscopy	340
Microbiology	341
Treatment	345
Clinical Approach	345
Summary	346
References	347
 Chapter 23	
Pneumonia Mimics	351
HENRY SU AND RICHARD H. WINTERBAUER	
Introduction	351
Pulmonary Embolism	352
Pulmonary Neoplasm	354
Radiation Pneumonitis	356
Bronchiolitis Obliterans Organizing Pneumonia	357
Collagen Vascular Disease	358
Drug-Induced Pulmonary Disease	359
Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis	360
Granulomatous Vasculitis	362
Churg-Strauss Syndrome	363
Chronic Eosinophilic Pneumonia	364
Summary	364
References	365
 Chapter 24	
Lung Abscess	369
CHRISTOPHER W. H. DAVIES, FERGUS V. GLEESON, AND ROBERT J. O. DAVIES	
Introduction	369
Epidemiology and Etiology	369
Clinical Features	372

Diagnostic Imaging	374
Medical Therapy	376
Interventional Therapy	381
Complications	383
Prognosis	383
Summary	384
References	384
Chapter 25	
Nonresolving Pneumonia	387
DAVID OST, ANNA ROZENSSTEIN, AND ALAN FEIN	
Introduction	387
Definitions	387
Infectious Etiologies	391
Noninfectious Etiologies	397
Approach to Nonresolving Pneumonia	406
Summary	408
References	409
Chapter 26	
Community-Acquired Pneumonia Associated with Exposure to Contaminated Water	415
TODD F. HATCHETTE	
Introduction	415
<i>Aeromonas</i>	416
<i>Chromobacterium violaceum</i>	417
Cyanobacteria	418
<i>Francisella philomiragia</i>	418
<i>Leptospira</i>	419
<i>Vibrio</i>	423
References	423
Chapter 27	
Pneumococcal Pneumonia	427
ÅKE ÖRTQVIST	
Introduction	427
Microbiology	427
Pathogenesis	428
Epidemiology	430
Clinical Features	437
Microbiological Diagnosis	441
Treatment	444
Clinical Course, Complications, and Prognosis	445
References	449

Chapter 28
Haemophilus influenzae 455
 LARRY J. STRAUSBAUGH

Introduction 455
 Properties 455
 Epidemiology 457
 Clinical Features 462
 Diagnosis 466
 Treatment 469
 References 470

Chapter 29
 Community-Acquired Pneumonia: *Staphylococcus aureus* 475
 SANTIAGO EWIG AND ANTONI TORRES

Introduction 475
 Pathogenesis 475
 Incidence 475
 Risk Factors 477
 Outcome and Prognostic Factors 478
 Clinical Presentation 479
 Microbiological Diagnosis 479
 Antimicrobial Treatment 480
 Conclusions 481
 References 482

Chapter 30
Mycoplasma pneumoniae Pneumonia 487
 THOMAS M. FILE, JR. AND JAMES S. TAN

Microbiology and Pathogenesis 487
 Prevalence and Epidemiology 488
 Perspectives on the Classification of Atypical Pathogens 490
 Clinical Characteristics 490
 Diagnosis 494
 Therapy 496
 References 498

Chapter 31
 Community-Acquired Pneumonia Due to *Chlamydia pneumoniae* 501
 JULIO A. RAMIREZ AND JAMES T. SUMMERSGILL

Introduction 501
 Microbiology 501
 Pathogenesis 501
 Epidemiology 502
 Clinical and Laboratory Manifestations 503

Radiographic Manifestations	503
Extrapulmonary Manifestations	504
Laboratory Diagnosis	504
Antibiotic Therapy	506
References	506

Chapter 32

Legionnaires' Disease	511
JOSEPH F. PLOUFFE	

Introduction	511
Microbiology	511
Antimicrobial Susceptibility	512
Epidemiology	513
Epidemics	513
Clinical Manifestations	514
Diagnosis	515
Serologies	516
Treatment	516
Control	516
Pontiac Fever	517
References	517

Chapter 33

Community-Acquired Aerobic Gram-Negative Bacillary Pneumonia	521
JAMES S. TAN	

Introduction	521
Incidence	522
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	522
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	524
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	524
<i>Acinetobacter</i> species	525
<i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> and Other Gram-Negative Bacteria	525
Pneumonia plus Bacteremia	526
Diagnosis	526
Treatment	527
Summary	527
References	528

Chapter 34

Community-Acquired Pneumonia Due to Nonfermenting Gram-Negative Bacilli	531
TODD F. HATCHETTE	

Introduction	531
Pseudomonadaceae	531
<i>Acinetobacter</i>	535
References	538

Chapter 35
 Miscellaneous Bacterial Causes of Community-Acquired Pneumonia 541
 TODD F. HATCHETTE

Clostridium 541
Eikenella 553
Listeria 555
Neisseria 560
 References 565

Chapter 36
 Q Fever 571
 THOMAS J. MARRIE

Background 571
Coxiella burnetti 572
 Epidemiology 574
 Coxiellosis in Laboratory Animals 574
 Domestic Animals 575
 Man 575
 Modes of Transmission of Q Fever to Man 577
 Clinical Manifestations of Q Fever 578
 Acute Q Fever Treatment 585
 Laboratory Diagnosis of *Coxiella burnetti* Infections 587
 References 587

Chapter 37
 Viral Pneumonia Due to Influenza and Parainfluenza Viruses and Adenoviruses 593
 THOMAS R. CATE

Influenza Viruses 593
 Parainfluenza Viruses 602
 Adenoviruses 605
 References 609

Chapter 38
 Respiratory Syncytial Virus Pneumonia 617
 ANN R. FALSEY

Introduction 617
 Organism 617
 Transmission 618
 Pathology 618
 Epidemiology 618
 Clinical Manifestations 621
 Diagnosis 623
 Treatment 624
 Prevention 625
 References 625

Chapter 39	
Measles and Varicella Pneumonia	629
B. LYNN JOHNSTON	
Measles Pneumonia: Case Presentation	629
Measles	629
Measles Pneumonia	631
Varicella Pneumonia: Case Presentation	635
Varicella	635
Varicella Pneumonia	636
References	640
Chapter 40	
Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	643
STEVEN Q. SIMPSON	
Introduction	643
Hantaviruses	643
Epidemiology	646
Clinical Features	646
Diagnosis	648
Treatment	649
Summary	651
References	651
Chapter 41	
Epstein–Barr Virus Pneumonia	655
MASIS PERK AND THOMAS J. MARRIE	
Introduction	655
Case 1	655
Case 2	656
Case 3	658
Discussion	660
Conclusion	663
References	663
Chapter 42	
Community-Acquired Pneumonia Due to Cytomegalovirus, Herpes Simplex 1 Virus, and Human Herpesvirus-6	665
KEVIN FORWARD	
Introduction	665
The Herpesviridae	665
Human Cytomegalovirus Pneumonia	666
Human Herpesvirus-6 Pneumonia	669
Herpes Simplex Pneumonia	671
References	674

Chapter 43	
Community-Acquired Fungal Diseases	679
GEORGE A. SAROSI AND SCOTT F. DAVIES	
<i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>	680
Blastomycosis	689
Coccidioidomycosis	695
Cryptococcal Pneumonia	702
References	705
Chapter 44	
<i>Penicillium</i> and Other Miscellaneous Fungi as Causal Agents in Community-Acquired Pneumonia	709
TODD F. HATCHETTE	
Introduction	709
Phaeohyphomycosis	709
Zygomycetes	710
Yeasts	711
Hyalohyphomycosis	712
References	717
Chapter 45	
<i>Aspergillus</i> Species as Agents of Community-Acquired Pneumonia	721
THOMAS J. MARRIE	
Introduction	721
The Organism	721
Pathogenesis	721
Definition of Invasive Aspergillosis	722
Acute Community-Acquired Pneumonia Due to <i>Aspergillus</i> in Immunocompetent Hosts	724
Invasive Pulmonary Aspergillosis in Patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	724
Invasive Aspergillosis in Patients with HIV Infection	724
Invasive Aspergillosis in the Immunocompromised Host	725
Chronic Necrotizing Pulmonary Aspergillosis	726
Diagnosis	726
Treatment	727
References	728
Chapter 46	
<i>Pneumocystis carinii</i> Pneumonia	731
VALENTINA CARLA MONTESSORI AND JULIO S. G. MONTANER	
Introduction	731
Epidemiology	731
Clinical Features	732
Microbiological Diagnosis	732
Prognosis	736
Treatment	736

Prophylaxis	738
Conclusion	738
References	739
Chapter 47	
Group B Streptococcal and Other Nonpneumococcal Streptococcal Pneumonia	743
STEVEN BERK AND JAMES W. MYERS	
Introduction	743
Group B Beta-Hemolytic Streptococcal Pneumonia	743
Group C Streptococci	744
Group G Streptococci	745
Enterococcal Pneumonia	746
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	746
Streptococcus Intermedius Group	747
References	747
Chapter 48	
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> as a Cause of Community-Acquired Pneumonia	751
DICK MENZIES	
Introduction	751
Bacteriology of Tuberculosis	751
Transmission	752
Pathogenesis	753
Reactivation	754
Epidemiology	755
Clinical Features	756
Laboratory Diagnosis	757
Accuracy and Reliability of the Chest X-Ray	758
Microbiologic Tests	760
Other Tests	762
Tuberculosis Treatment	768
References	773
Chapter 49	
Pneumonia Caused by <i>Yersinia pestis</i> : Plague Pneumonia	777
DENNIS JAMES CLERI, RANDY MARTON, MOHAMED RABBAT, AND JOHN VERNALEO	
Introduction	777
History	778
Microbiology	782
Pathogenesis	786
Epidemiology	787
Clinical Presentations	788
Treatment	793
Summary and Conclusions	795
References	795

Chapter 50
 Nontuberculous Mycobacteria 801
 STEPHEN D. SHAFRAN

Introduction 801
 Pulmonary Disease 802
 Criteria for Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Pulmonary Disease 802
 Disease Due to Specific Nontuberculous Mycobacteria Species 802
 References 808

Chapter 51
 Melioidosis 811
 STEPHEN A. BERGER

Introduction 811
 Epidemiology 811
 Pathogenesis 812
 Clinical Presentation 812
 Roentgenographic Findings 813
 Differential Diagnosis 813
 Bacteriology and Laboratory Diagnosis 814
 Therapy 815
 Prognosis 816
 References 816

Chapter 52
 Pneumonia Due to *Nocardia* Species 821
 THOMAS J. MARRIE

Introduction 821
 Case 1 821
 Case 2 822
 Case 3 822
 The Organism 822
 Epidemiology 823
 Clinical Manifestations 823
 Treatment 824
 References 824

Chapter 53
 Actinomycosis 827
 DAVID J. M. HALDANE

Introduction 827
 Epidemiology 828
 Clinical Features 828
 Endobronchial Actinomycosis 830
 Actinomycosis and HIV 830
 Disseminated Actinomycosis 831
 Pathology 832

Diagnosis	832
Treatment	836
References	839
Chapter 54	
Tularemia	841
BURKE A. CUNHA AND DIANE H. JOHNSON	
Introduction	841
Epidemiology	841
Microbiology	842
Clinical Manifestations	842
Diagnosis	844
Treatment	844
References	846
Chapter 55	
Psittacosis	849
BURKE A. CUNHA AND NATALIE C. KLEIN	
Introduction	849
Epidemiology	849
Microbiology	850
Clinical Manifestations	850
Diagnosis	851
Treatment	852
References	852
Chapter 56	
<i>Moraxella (Branhamella) catarrhalis</i>	855
DICK ZOUTMAN	
Introduction and Taxonomy	855
<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i> Colonization of the Respiratory Tract in Health and Disease	855
The Outer Membrane Proteins and Pili of <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	856
Immune Response to Surface Antigens of <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	859
Lower Respiratory Infections Caused by <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	860
Microbiology Laboratory Identification and Susceptibility Testing of <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i> ...	862
Antimicrobial Susceptibility and Therapy	863
References	866
Chapter 57	
<i>Pasteurella multocida</i>	875
THOMAS J. MARRIE	
Introduction	875
Pneumonia	875
Treatment	876
References	876

Chapter 58
Rhodococcus equi and *Bordetella bronchiseptica* 877
 CLAIRE TOUCHIE
Rhodococcus equi 877
Bordetella bronchiseptica 880
 References 882

Chapter 59
 Parasites 885
 KATHRYN N. SUH AND JAY S. KEYSTONE
 Introduction 885
 Tropical Lung Disease 885
 Selected Parasitic Pulmonary Diseases 889
 References 902

Index 907

Community-Acquired Pneumonia