

EBM management of pneumonia in children

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In 1901 Sir William Osler wrote that pneumonia was the captain of the men of death. After more than a century community acquired pneumonia (CAP) still remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality in infants and children. In children aged less than 5 years CAP account globally for more than 1 million deaths. It is estimated that the incidence of CAP in Italian children is about 40/1000/year and that 9/1000 children suffer from recurrent CAP. Pleurisy develops in about 40% of CAP and empyema develops in about 60% of children with pleurisy. The current madcap abuse and misuse of FANS and /or proton pump inhibitors make more frequent the frequency of these complications. The treatment of paediatric CAP requires effective antibiotic treatment in impeccable dosage and duration. The choice of antibiotic is based on age and the bacterial aetiology. No laboratory or imaging finding can assure for a bacterial or a viral aetiology and, in any case, coinfection with multiple bacteria, viruses or bacteria and viruses is frequent. Thus it is recommended that clinicians refer in each setting to the more recent guidelines for the management of CAP in children.