

# Pneumonia is a serious infection

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The heart throughout the body then pumps the oxygenated blood. The alveoli also take in carbon dioxide, which is then exhaled from the body. Breathing is due to contractions of the diaphragm and of muscles between the ribs.

Exhaling results from relaxation of those muscles. Two-layered membranes, or the pleura, that under normal circumstances has a very, very small amount of fluid between the layers, surround each lung. The fluid allows the membranes to easily slide over each other during breathing. Pneumonia is a serious infection or inflammation of your lungs. The air sacs in the lungs fill with pus and other liquid. Oxygen has trouble reaching your blood.

If there is too little oxygen in your blood, your body cells can't work properly. Because of this and spreading infection through the body pneumonia can cause death. Pneumonia affects your lungs in two ways. Lobar pneumonia affects a section (lobe) of a lung. Bronchial pneumonia (or bronchiolitis) affects patches throughout both lungs.

Bacteria are the most common cause of pneumonia. Of these, Streptococcus pneumoniae is the most common. Other pathogens include anaerobic bacteria, Staphylococcus aureus, Hemophilus influenzae, Chlamydia pneumoniae, C. Psittacosis, C. Difficile, Moraxella catarrhalis, Legionary pneumonia, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and other gram-negative bacilli.

Major pulmonary pathogens in infants and children are viruses: respiratory syncytial virus, parainfluenza virus, and influenza A and B viruses.

Among other agents are higher bacteria including Anaconda and Assistances SP; mycobacterium, including Mycobacterium tuberculosis and atypical strains; fungi, including Historicism capsular, Ecocide's mitts, Balletomane dermatitis, Cryptograms informant, Espadrilles fumigates, and Pneumatics caring; and ricketiest, primarily Collegial burnet (Q fever). The usual mechanisms of spread are inhaling droplets small enough to reach the alveoli and aspirating secretions from the upper airways.

Other means include homogeneous or lymphatic dissemination and direct spread from contiguous infections. Predisposing factors include upper respiratory viral infections, alcoholism, institutionalizing, cigarette smoking, heart failure, chronic obstructive airway disease, age extremes, ability, uncompromising (as in diabetes mellitus and chronic renal failure), compromised consciousness, dysphasia, and exposure to transmissible agents. Typical symptoms include cough, fever, and sputum production, usually developing over days and sometimes accompanied by pleurisy. Physical examination may detect tachyon and signs of consolidation, such as crackles with bronchial breath sounds.

This syndrome is commonly caused by bacteria, such as S. pneumonia and H. Insurance. Diagnostic Tests Chest X-rays can be used to determine if infection is present in your lungs. However, Hess X-rays won't show your type of pneumonia. Blood tests can provide a better picture of the type of pneumonia.

Also, blood tests are necessary to see if the infection is in your bloodstream. Other Tests Additional tests that may be required include: Chest computed

tomography (CT scan): A CT scan is similar to an X-ray, but the pictures provided by this method are highly detailed. This painless test provides a clear and precise picture of the chest and lungs.

Sputum test: This test will examine the sputum (the mucus you cough up) to determine what type of pneumonia is present. Pleural fluid test: If there is fluid apparent in the pleural space (the space between the tissue that covers the outside of your lungs and the inside of your chest cavity), a fluid sample can be taken to help determine if the pneumonia is bacterial or viral. Pulse geometry: This test measures the level of oxygen blood saturation by attaching a small sensor to your finger.

Pneumonia can prevent normal oxygenation of blood. Bronchoscopy: When antibiotics fail, this method is used to view the airways inside the lungs to determine if blocked airways are contributing to the pneumonia.

Pathologically: