CLINICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL STUDY OF COMMUNITY ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA

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ABSTRACT: BACKGROUND: Community acquired pneumonia (CAP) is major cause of morbidity and mortality in all age groups. The presentation may be variable and severity of the disease is seen to be more if co-morbid conditions are present, especially chronic lung disease. Etiological variation in various region of country. The present study was designed to evaluate the clinical, bacteriological and radiological profile of CAP in Hadoti region of Rajasthan. MATERIAL AND METHODS: Fifty patients with community acquired pneumonia aged more than 12 years were enrolled in this study. In all the patients demographic data and detailed history were recorded followed by complete physical examination, chest x-ray, blood culture, sputum culture and pleural fluid culture (if available) and other investigation wherever applicable in a preformed proforma were done. RESULTS: Mean age of patients was 49 years. Smoking was the most common predisposing factor (52%). COPD was most common associated co-morbidity. Etiology was determined in only 26 patients, commonest being Streptococcus pneumoniae. Radiologically lobar pneumonia was commonest finding. **CONCLUSION**: Our observations will be useful to monitor the trends of CAP in the population of the region and will help the physicians to start rational empirical treatment for patients with CAP. There is need for further conventional serologic tests for atypical and viral pathogens in all patients admitted with CAP. **KEYWORDS:** Community acquired pneumonia, Etiology, Smoking, COPD.

INTRODUCTION: Pneumonia is an infection of pulmonary parenchyma.¹ It is a major cause of morbidity and mortality with an incidence of 20-30% in the developing countries and 3-4% in developed countries.² Streptococcus pneumoniae is the major etiologic agent of bacterial pneumonia in various regions of the world.^{1,3,4,5} Other causes are H.influenzae, S.aureus and gram negative bacilli Klebsiella pneumoniae and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. The atypical organisms include Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Chlamydia pneumoniae and Legionella species.^{1,4} Viruses are etiologic agents that are frequently associated with CAP and are poorly identified.^{5,6}

The etiological agent of CAP varies with geographical distribution even in India variable results obtained from various regions e.g. Streptococcus pneumoniae predominates as etiological agent of CAP in Shimla⁷ and Delhi⁸ whereas Pseudomonas aeruginosa pre-dominates as an etiological agent in blood culture positive CAP in Ludhiana.⁹ This study was conducted in Department of Pulmonary Medicine government medical college Kota with a population representing patients from all parts of Hadoti region to study the clinical, bacteriological and radiological profile of hospitalized CAP patients.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: Patients over 12 years of age admitted to the Pulmonary medicine and General medicine ward with CAP between September 2102 and August 2013 were included prospectively in the study after due consent. Permission for the study was taken from the

institutional ethical board, GMC, Kota. Patients were evaluated by taking detailed history with general examination and detail respiratory examination findings followed by hematological test, blood culture, sputum AFB, sputum gram stain, sputum culture, x ray chest, USG thorax if required.

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

- 1. Patients with age >12 years.
- 2. Patients having clinical features like fever, cough with or without expectoration, chest pain, breathlessness.
- 3. Radiological evidence of pneumonia.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

1. Patients having hospital acquired pneumonia, HIV positive status, Tuberculosis were excluded.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS: After the study of 50 consecutive cases of pneumonias the following observations were made:

• **AGE DISTRIBUTION:** The mean age of patients was 49.34 ±17.44 years.

Age group in years	No. of patients n=50	Percentage %		
<40 years	16	32		
41-50	6	12		
>50 years 28 56				
Table 1: Age Distribution				

• Gender Distribution:

Sex incidence	No. of patients n=50	Percentage %	
Male	35	70	
Female	15	30	
Table 2: Gender Distribution			

• Clinical Manifestation:

Major symptoms and signs	No. of patients n=50	Percentage %
Cough	46	92
Fever	44	88
Expectoration	30	60
Pleuritic chest pain	28	56
Dyspnoea	24	48
Hemoptysis	3	6
Pallor	11	22

Cyanosis	03	06
Crepitations	44	88
Bronchial breath sound	38	76
Altered sensorium	03	06

Table 3: Clinical Manifestation

• Comorbid Disease/ Risk factors:

Factor	No. of patients n=50	Percentage %
Smoking	26	52
COPD	17	34
Alcohol	07	14
DM,HTN	06	12
m 11	4.0 1.15. /1	21.1.6

Table 4: Comorbid Disease/ Risk factors

• Sputum gram staining:

Gram positive cocci	17	34
Gram negative bacilli	6	12
Mixed	3	6
Undetermined	24	48

Table 5: Sputum gram staining

Majority of the patients (8/10) from whom Gram negative bacilli were isolated were older than 50 years of age, smokers or had COPD.

• Microbiological Agent Isolated From Sputum C/S:

Bacteria	No. of patients n=50	Percentage %
Streptococcus pneumoniae	10	20
Staph. Aureus	1	2
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	4	8
Klebsiella pneumoniae	2	4
E.coli	3	6
No growth	30	60

Table 6: Microbiological Agent Isolated From Sputum C/S

Microbiological Agent Isolated From Blood C/S:

Staph.aureus	3	6
Klebsiella pneumonia	1	2
S.pneumoniae	1	2
No growth	45	90

Table 7: Microbiological Agent Isolated From Blood C/S

• Microbiological Agent Isolated From Pleural Fluid:

Staph.aureus	1
No growth	3

Table 8: Microbiological Agent Isolated From Pleural Fluid

• Lobar distribution of consolidation:

Lobes	No. of patients n=50	Percentage %
Right upper lobe	6	12
Right middle lobe	2	04
Right lower lobe	12	24
Rt middle and lower	1	2
Left upper lobe	6	12
Left lower lobe	9	18
Whole lt lung	1	2
Bilateral	13	26

Table 9: Lobar distribution of consolidation

• **Complication:** Various complications noted in our study were pleural effusion 3 (6%), septic shock 3(6%), congestive cardiac failure 1(2%). One mortality occur out of 50 patient study.

DISCUSSION: There were many studies done in different parts of the world and different regions of India on CAP. Few of the important studies considered for comparison purpose and comparative study discussed here.

• Age distribution (%):

Age Group	Dey et al ¹⁰	Lancet study ¹¹	B A Shah et al ¹²	Present study
<50 years	40%	40%	33%	44%
>50 years	59%	60%	77%	56%
Table 10. Age Distribution				

INFERENCE: Old age predisposition can be explained by lower immunity and greater predisposing risk factors in the extremes of ages.

• Sex distribution (%):

Sex	Lancet study ¹¹	Joshua et al ¹³	B A Shah et al	Present study
Male	68%	80%	58%	70%
Female	32%	20%	42%	36%
Table 11: Sex Distribution				

INFERENCE: Previous studies showed males were affected more than females. Present study matches with previous study. This could be attributed to the well-established fact that cigarette smoking and alcoholism, as well as underlying lung disease e.g. COPD predispose to pneumonia and are more common males in developing country like India. In this study 64 % of the patients were from urban population and majority were daily wage workers and manual labourers belonging to low socioeconomic status. This may attributed to environmental pollution, change in the patients habits, like smoking, alcoholism etc.

• Risk factors (%):

Factor	Vali Series ¹⁴	B A Shah et al	Present Study	
Smoking	36.2%	52%	52%	
COPD	32.2%	34%	34%	
Alcoholism	38.2%	14%	14%	
DM,HTN,CCF	18%	-	12%	
Table 12: Risk Factors (%)				

• Presenting complaints:

Lancet Study	Mac Fartane Study	Joshua P. Metlay Study	Present study
80%	86%	92%	92%
72%	92%	88%	88%
30%	54%	65%	60%
-	67%	71%	48%
66%	62%	-	56%
3%	-	-	6%
	80% 72% 30% - 66%	80% 86% 72% 92% 30% 54% - 67% 66% 62%	Lancet Study Mac Fartane Study Study 80% 86% 92% 72% 92% 88% 30% 54% 65% - 67% 71% 66% 62% -

From above comparing manifestations it can be inferred that clinical manifestations like cough, fever, expectoration, chest pain are more or less common and thus can be considered as sensitive for diagnosis of CAP.

Microbiological agents isolated from gram staining:

Sputum Examination	Lary G. Reimer 15	Present study	
Gram+	76%	34%	
Gram -	14%	12%	
Mixed	10%	6%	

Table 14: Microbiological agents isolated from gram staining

Microbiological agents isolated from sputum culture:

Sputum culture	Lary G. Reimer	Shah et al	Shreshta R et al ¹⁶	Present study
Streptococcal pneumoniae	15-76%		73%	20%
Staphylococcal	15-76%		32%	4%
Table 15: Microbiological agents isolated from sputum culture				

The causative bacteriological agent diagnosis of CAP was obtained in only 52% of patients with standard sputum and blood cultures and pleural fluid culture. A. Oberoi et al¹⁶ study at Ludhiana etiological diagnosis was done in 47.7% cases. While S. Bansal et al¹⁷ study at Shimla confirmed etiology in 75.6% cases. S.pneumoniae was most common etiological agent in our study. S. Bansal et al study at Shimla (HP) and Capoor et al8 study at Delhi S. Pneumoniae was predominant as etiological agent of CAP while A. Oberoi et al study at Ludhiana Shah et al Srinagar. P. aeruginosa was pre-dominant as an etiological agent for CAP.

Lobewise distribution (%) on CXR:

Lobes	Allen	Vali	Lancet	Ajay Savaliya	Present
	Series	Series	Study	al ¹⁹ Study	Study
Rt. Upper lobe	5.2	5	2	2	2
Rt. Middle lobe	10.2	15.3	-	21	4
Rt. Lower lobe	37	32	46	35	24
Lt. upper lobe	5.6	11.7	2	11	12
Lt. lower lobe	43	36	44	30	18
Bilat. Diffuse	-	-	6	1	26
Rt middle and					2
lower	-	-	-	-	2
Whole left lung	-	-	-	-	2
Table 16: Lobewise distribution (%) on CXR					

CONCLUSION: Common pre-disposing factors for CAP in Hadoti area are smoking, COPD, old age alcoholism. S. pneumoniae most common etiology for CAP in this area and Gram negative bacteria are common cause in patients with co-morbid illness and old age in the area. Chest X-ray is an important early investigation for diagnosis as most of the patients presented with lobar consolidation.

In our set up, the yield for causative agent detection was low because of lack of serological and invasive tests. This is also because of rampant use of antibiotics before the patient reaches tertiary care hospital. Our observations will be useful to monitor the trends of CAP in the population of the region and will help the physicians to start rational empirical treatment for patients with CAP. There is need for further conventional serologic tests for atypical and viral pathogens patients with CAP.

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