

# Atypical Pneumonia



## WHAT IS ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA?

- quite common.
- 2 million cases of mycoplasma pneumonia occur in the US each year.
- 8,000-18,000 patients are hospitalized for Legionnaires' disease in the US each year.

## WHAT IS ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA?

- bacterial infection of lower respiratory tract caused by *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, *Chlamydia psittaci*, and *Legionella pneumophila*.
- The types of bacteria that cause it tend to create less severe symptoms than those in typical pneumonia.
- Cases of atypical pneumonia do not usually require hospitalization, and a person with it is unlikely to be significantly ill. This is why it is often called walking pneumonia.

# Typical vs atypical pneumonia

Typical pneumonia	Atypical pneumonia
Causative organism are typical	Causative organism are atypical bacteria, viruses, fungus, parasites, non infective caused like chemical, irradiation
Immuno-competant	Immuno-suppressed
Clinical and laboratory findings limited to the lungs	Systemic infectious disease with a pulmonary component like GI or CNS
Unilateral involvement	Bilateral involvement
follow alveolar pattern	follow interstitial pattern
Neutrophilic infiltrates	Lymphocytic infiltrates
Chest x-ray will show lobar or segmental homogenous opacity in over 80% of typical bacterial pneumonia.	Chest x-ray will show diffuse patchy or GGO >>> lobar or segmental homogenous opacity .
Classically response to BL/BL-BI combination therapy	These do not have cell wall or are intracellular. Hence, do not responds to BL/BL-BI combination therapy
	Public health concerns , can cause HAP Outbreak



**Clinical pneumonia**  
(confirmed by chest radiography)

**No extrapulmonary features**  
(typical bacterial pneumonia)

- Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- Haemophilus influenzae*
- Moraxella catarrhalis*
- Group A streptococci
- Klebsiella pneumoniae*
- Aspiration pneumonia

**Extrapulmonary features**  
(atypical pneumonia)

**- zoonotic contact history**  
Mycoplasma  
*Chlamydia pneumoniae*  
Legionnaires' disease

**+ zoonotic contact history**  
Psittacosis  
Q fever  
Tularemia

**- RB**

**+ RB**

**- RB**

**+ RB**

Mycoplasma  
*C. pneumoniae*

Legionnaires'  
disease

Tularemia

Psittacosis  
Q fever



Type	Pathogen	Radiographic Findings				Notes
		Lobar Con- solidation	Reticulonodu- lar Opacities	Peribronchial Cuffing	Pleural Effusion	
Nonzoo- notic	<i>M pneumoniae</i>	+	+++	+++	+	Possible to have effusions or adenopathy
	<i>L pneumoniae</i>	+++	-	-	+++	Unilateral pleural effusions are common
	<i>C pneumoniae</i>	++	+	-	+	Typically unilobar involvement, with patchy consolidation in lower lobes
Zoonotic	<i>F tularensis</i>	++	++	-	++	Variable appearance; can have single consolidations that resemble lung cancer
	<i>C psittaci</i>	++	+	-	-	Favors lower lobes
	<i>C burnetii</i>	++	++	-	-	Variable appearance; conflicting data on upper versus lower lobe predominance

CT Findings


Type	Pathogen	CT Findings				Notes
		Ground-Glass Opacity and Consolidation	Nodules, Micronodules, and Tree-in-Bud Opacities	Interlobular Septal Thickening	Bronchial and/or Bronchiolar Wall Thickening	
Nonzoonotic	<i>M pneumoniae</i>	+++	+++	-	+++	Perihilar ground-glass opacities, diffuse centrilobular micronodules, bronchial wall thickening
	<i>L pneumoniae</i>	+++	-	-	-	Can progress from single lower lobe consolidation to multifocal asymmetric opacities; perihilar distribution with hilar adenopathy
	<i>C pneumoniae</i>	+++	-	+	-	Acinar pattern of ground-glass opacities; possible airway dilatation; lymphadenopathy is uncommon
Zoonotic	<i>F tularensis</i>	++	++	-	-	Patchy lobar or multilobar opacities; can have pleural effusions and prominent hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy
	<i>C psittaci</i>	++	-	-	-	Can range from normal-appearing to patchy or lobar consolidation
	<i>C burnetii</i>	++	++	-	-	Areas of nodular consolidation have been reported to demonstrate a ground-glass halo sign



## WHAT IS ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA?

- People with atypical pneumonia will also have certain symptoms that others with typical pneumonia will often not have. These might include a prominent headache, a low-grade fever, an earache, and a sore throat.
- Symptoms of atypical pneumonia tend to be milder and more persistent than those of typical pneumonia, which appear suddenly, and cause a more serious illness.
- Atypical pneumonia requires different antibiotics than typical pneumonia, which is commonly caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

## *CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE* INFECTION

- one cause of community-acquired pneumonia
  - The bacteria cause illness by damaging the lining of the respiratory tract including the throat, windpipe, and lungs.
  - Some people may become infected and have mild or no symptoms.
  - spread by coughing or sneezing, which creates small respiratory droplets
  - long incubation periods 3-4 weeks
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# CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE INFECTION

- *C. pneumoniae* growth consists of two alternating forms: elementary and reticulate bodies.
- Elementary bodies are metabolically inactive.
- They infect the host when cells ingest the elementary bodies through the process of receptor-mediated endocytosis.
- Once inside the cell, the elementary bodies differentiate into reticulate bodies, which are metabolically active but noninfectious.
- The reticulate bodies rely on the host cell for adenosine triphosphate (ATP) synthesis.
- The reticulate bodies divide by binary fission and induce a host immune response.
- After 48 to 72 hours, the reticulate bodies reorganize themselves and condense to form new elementary bodies.
- The elementary bodies then leave the host cell and start a new infectious cycle.

# CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE INFECTION

- all ages can get infection
- People at increased risk include those who live or work in crowded places where outbreaks most commonly occur<sup>8</sup>, such as:
  - Schools
  - College residence halls
  - Military barracks
  - Nursing homes
  - Hospitals
  - Prisons
- Older adults are at increased risk for severe disease



# CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE INFECTION

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- *chlamydia pneumoniae* infection is a mild illness that most commonly causes an upper respiratory tract infection. :
  - ❖ Runny or stuffy nose
  - ❖ Fatigue (feeling tired)
  - ❖ Low-grade fever
  - ❖ Hoarseness or loss of voice
  - ❖ Sore throat
  - ❖ Slowly worsening cough that can last for weeks or months
  - ❖ Headache
- *C. pneumoniae* can also cause lower respiratory tract infections like bronchitis and pneumonia.
- Symptoms can continue for several weeks


# *CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE* INFECTION COMPLICATIONS

- Encephalitis
- Myocarditis
- might contribute to chronic conditions, such as asthma, arthritis, and atherosclerosis



# *CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE* INFECTION DIAGNOSIS

types of specimens

- NP swabs
  - OP (throat) swabs
  - NP aspirates
  - Sputum
  - Tissue
  - Bronchial lavage (BAL) fluid
  - Bronchial washings
  - Cerebral spinal fluid (CSF)
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# CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE INFECTION

## DIAGNOSIS

1- **Molecular** real-time PCR (preferred method for the diagnosis of an acute infection)

- available , high sensitivity and specificity, expensive

2- **Serology** enzyme immunoassay

- available , lacks specificity, not standardized, ,not optimal for treatment decisions

3- **Culture**

genotyping and antimicrobial susceptibilities testing, Time-consuming , low sensitivity and specificity, Positive results should be confirmed by PCR

# *CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE* INFECTION

## DIAGNOSIS IMAGING

- unilateral pattern of alveolar infiltrates or bronchopneumonia predominates then progress bilateral
- Findings are usually confined to a single lobe with lower lobe involvement more frequent than middle or upper lobe involvement Up to a quarter of patients may demonstrate a
- small to moderate-size pleural effusion.
- Hilar or mediastinal lymphadenopathy is an uncommon.

# PATCHY CONSOLIDATION OF RT. BASAL SEGMENT OF THE LUNG



# CHLAMYDIA PNEUMONIAE INFECTION

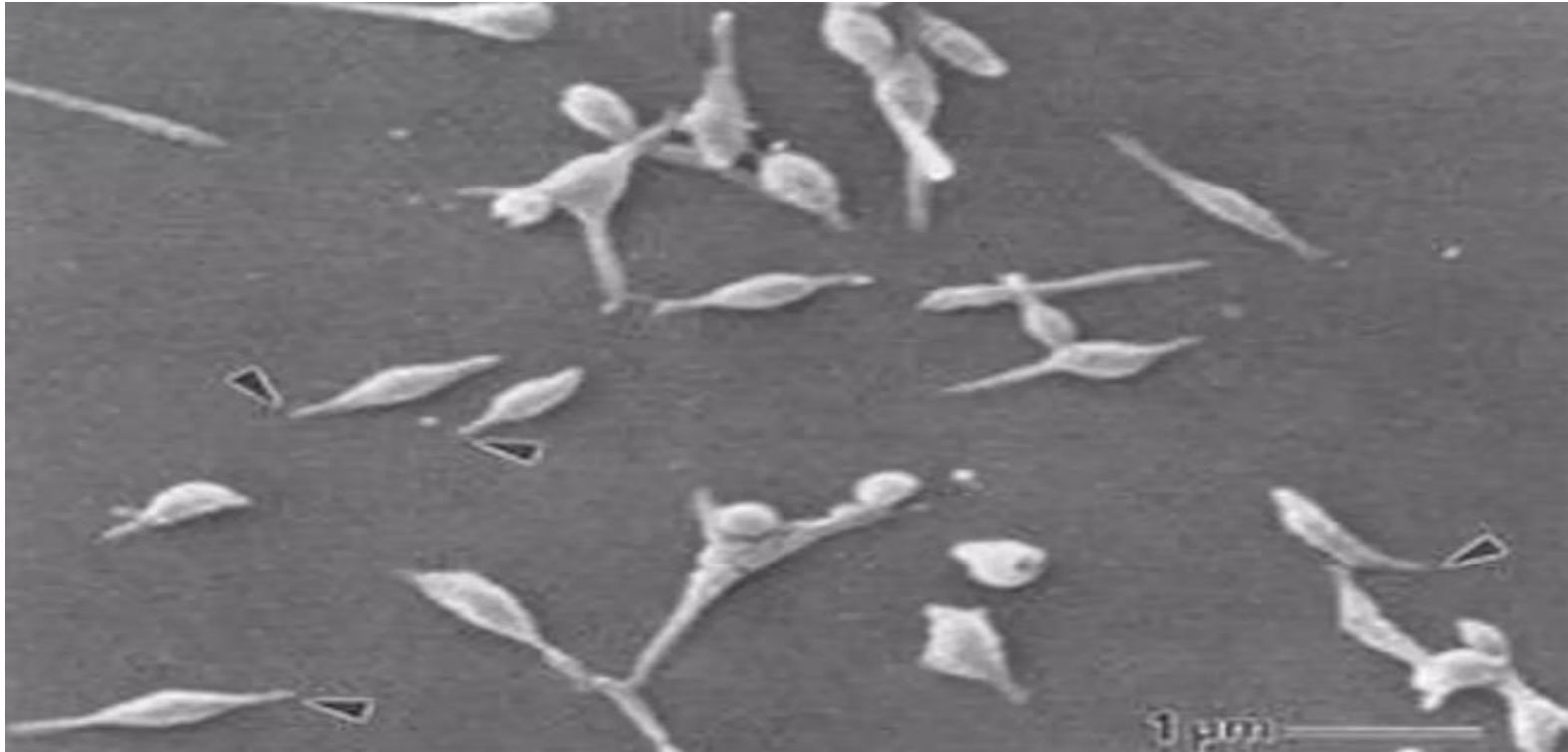
## TREATMENT

- Illness caused by *Chlamydia pneumoniae* is usually self-limiting and patients may not seek care.

Because *C pneumoniae* is an obligate intracellular microbe, antibiotics must achieve intracellular penetration to achieve efficacy

- Macrolides (azithromycin) — first-line therapy
  - Tetracyclines (tetracycline and doxycycline)
  - Fluoroquinolones
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# MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE





# MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE INFECTIONS

## PATHOGENESIS

- spread through airborne droplets from person to person and is exclusively a human pathogen.
- primarily an extracellular pathogen that has evolved a specialized attachment organelle for close association with host cells.
- *This* attachment is critical to the bacteria's survival and ability to infect. The close association between *M. pneumoniae* and the host cells prevents the host's mucociliary clearance mechanisms from removing the bacterium.
- The bacterium attaches to and damages the respiratory epithelial cells at the base of cilia. This activates the innate immune response and produces local cytotoxic effects.

# MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE INFECTIONS

## CLINICAL FEATURES

- *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infections can occur in the upper or lower respiratory tract.
- The bacterium can also cause a wide array of extrapulmonary manifestations without obvious respiratory disease.
- The incubation period is generally between 1 to 4 weeks
- Infection most commonly results in:
  - Tracheobronchitis
  - Pharyngitis
  - Malaise
  - Fever
  - Cough
  - Headache

# MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE INFECTIONS

## DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

**Specimen** : NP, OP, sputum or sera

**Molecular** real-time PCR :available ,High sensitivity and specificity, Rapid, expensive, not standardized

**Serology**: available, low specificity

**Culture** genotyping and antimicrobial susceptibilities testing, 100% specificity , Time-consuming





Mycoplasma pneumoniae Posteroanterior (PA) chest radiograph shows bronchial wall thickening and **mid and lower lung zone predominant heterogeneous opacities** involving both **lungs symmetrically**. There is **relative sparing of the lung apices**.



Axial chest CT image (lung window) obtained at the level of the ventricles shows **diffuse bilateral centrilobular nodules** (arrow), **peribronchovascular ground-glass opacities**, and **bronchial wall thickening**, findings commonly seen in mycoplasma pneumoniae.

# MYCOPLASMA PNEUMONIAE INFECTIONS

## TREATMENT

- All mycoplasmas lack a cell wall and, therefore, all are inherently resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics (e.g., penicillin).
  - Macrolides (e.g., azithromycin): Children and adults
  - Fluoroquinolones: Adults
  - Tetracyclines (e.g., doxycycline): Older children and adults

# PSITTACOSIS



- *Chlamydia psittaci* is a type of bacteria that often infects birds, Less commonly humans
- cause a disease called psittacosis with a wide range of symptoms, including fever, headache, and a dry cough. This illness can also cause pneumonia



# PSITTACOSIS

## CLINICAL FEATURES

- vary widely from no evidence of infection to severe systemic disease accompanied by pneumonia.
- The predominant presentation is upper respiratory tract infection with constitutional symptoms.
  - Abrupt onset of fever and chills
  - Headache
  - Muscle aches
  - Nonproductive cough
- Patients may present with pulse-temperature dissociation (fever without increased pulse rate), splenomegaly, and rash, though less frequently.
- The incubation period is typically 5 to 14 days.
- Pneumonia is evident often on chest x-ray. Radiographic findings may include lobar or interstitial infiltrates

# PSITTACOSIS

## CLINICAL COMPLICATIONS


- Severe pneumonia requiring intensive-care support
- Respiratory failure
- Endocarditis
- Myocarditis
- Hepatitis
- Arthritis
- Encephalitis
- Sepsis
- Death occurs in less than 1%

# PSITTACOSIS

## TREATMENT

- *Chlamydia psittaci* are sensitive to both macrolides and tetracyclines. However, tetracyclines are the drugs of choice, unless contraindicated as they are in children, due to reported macrolide failures.

## LEGIONELLOSIS (LEGIONNAIRES' DISEASE AND PONTIAC FEVER)

- 60 different species of *Legionella*; most are considered pathogenic,
  - but most disease is caused by *Legionella pneumophila*, particularly serogroup 1.
  - *Legionella* is transmitted via inhalation of aerosolized water containing the bacteria.
  - Legionnaires' disease is likely underdiagnosed, More than 6,000 cases were reported in US 2015.
  - Legionnaires' disease is hard to distinguish from pneumonia caused by other pathogens because it presents similar clinical symptoms; however, presence of diarrhea and elevated creatinine kinase levels can be indicators
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# LEGIONELLOSIS

## RISK FACTORS

- Age  $\geq 50$  years
- Smoking (current or historical)
- Chronic lung disease (such as emphysema or COPD)
- Immune system disorders due to disease or medication
- Systemic malignancy
- Underlying illness such as diabetes, renal failure, or hepatic failure
- Recent travel
- Exposure to hot tubs

# LEGIONELLOSIS

## CLINICAL FEATURES

	<b>Legionnaires' disease</b>	<b>Pontiac fever</b>
<b>Clinical features</b>	Fever, myalgia, and cough shortness of breath, headache, confusion, nausea, diarrhea)	A flu-like illness, often with fever, chills, headache, myalgia, fatigue, malaise; less often with symptoms such as cough or nausea
<b>Pneumonia (clinical or radiographic)</b>	yes	no
<b>Pathogenesis</b>	Replication of organism	inflammatory response to endotoxin
<b>Incubation period</b>	2 to 10 days	24 to 72 hours




# LEGIONELLOSIS

## CLINICAL FEATURES

	Legionnaires' disease	Pontiac fever
<b>Isolation of the organism</b>	Possible	Never demonstrated
<b>Treatment</b>	Antibiotics	Supportive care
<b>percent of people who become ill, when exposed to the source of <i>Legionella</i></b>	Less than 5%	Greater than 90%
<b>Outcome</b>	Hospitalization common Case-fatality rate: 10%	Hospitalization uncommon Case fatality rate: extremely low

## TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- ❑ CAP due to Legionella, Chlamydophyla, or Mycoplasma continues to be a diagnostic challenge due to the nonspecific clinical and radiographic presentations.
  - ❑ The vague clinical presentations of atypical CAP contribute to its underdiagnosis and under-reporting.
  - ❑ Advancements in diagnostic techniques bring hope to rapid and accurate diagnosis of atypical CAP.
  - ❑ Macrolides and respiratory fluoroquinolones are currently the antibiotics of choice
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# سپاس از توجه شما

