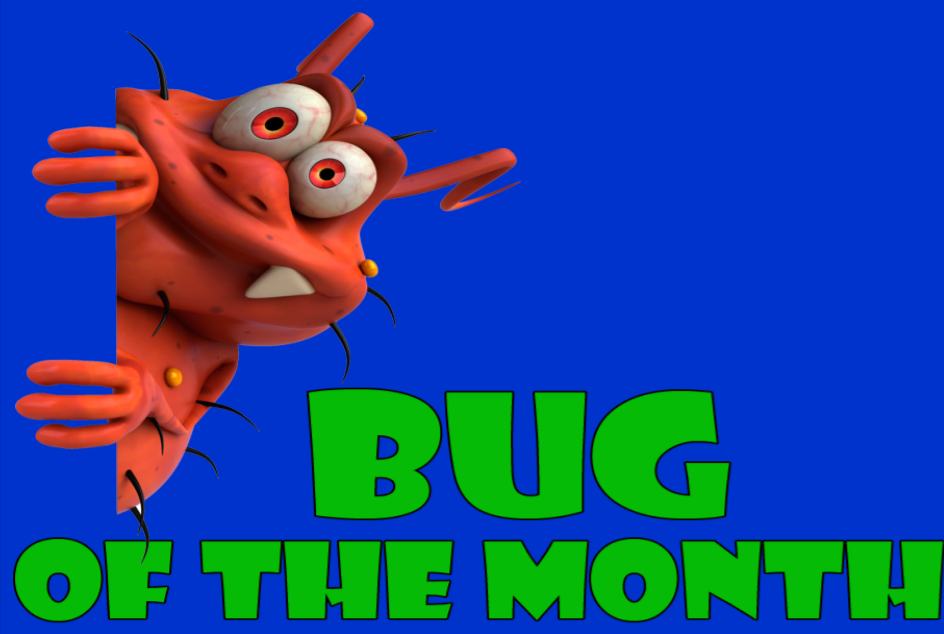


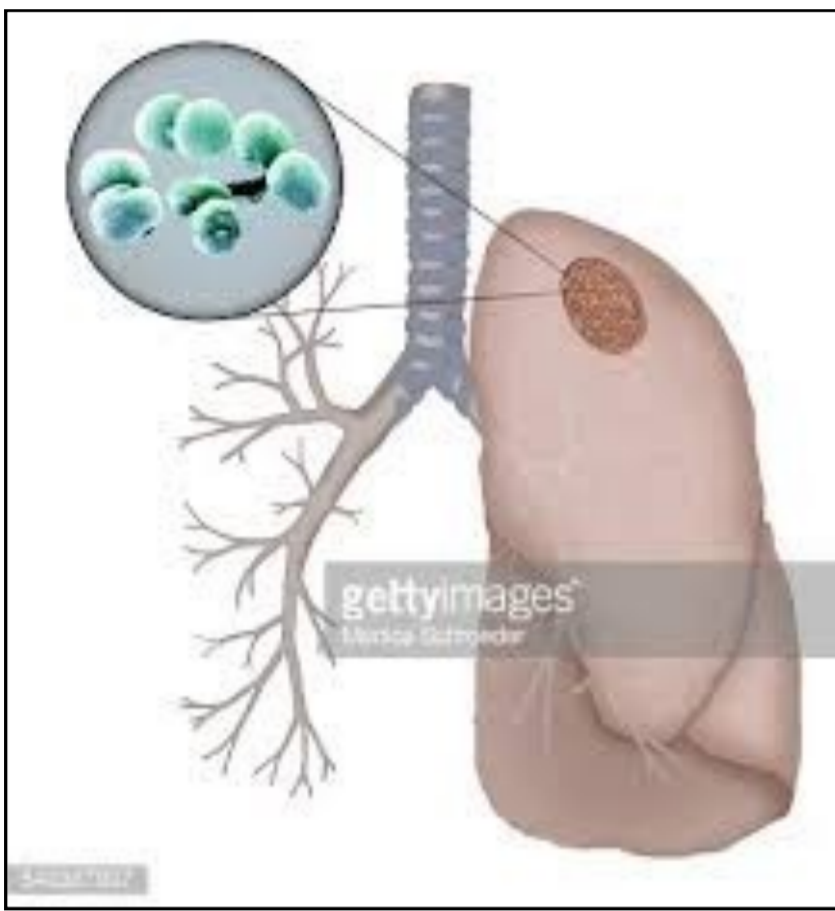
For Staff /Patient Education



Pneumococcal Disease

April 2016

What is it?



- Pneumococcal [noo-muh-KOK-uhl] disease is caused by a bacterium known as *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, or pneumococcus.
 - Pneumococcal infections can range from ear and sinus infections to pneumonia, meningitis and bloodstream infections.
 - Pneumococcal bacteria can invade the bloodstream, causing bacteremia, and the tissues and fluids surrounding the brain and spinal cord, causing meningitis. When this happens, disease is usually very severe, causing hospitalization or even death.
 - Pneumococcal pneumonia (lung infection) is the most common serious form of pneumococcal disease. Symptoms include: Fever and chills; Cough; Rapid breathing or difficulty breathing; Chest pain.
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- Older adults with pneumococcal pneumonia may experience confusion or low alertness, rather than the more common symptoms listed above.
 - Pneumococcal meningitis is an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include: Stiff neck; Fever and headache; Pain when looking into bright lights; Confusion
 - In babies, meningitis may cause poor eating and drinking, low alertness, and vomiting. Pneumococcal bacteremia and sepsis are blood infections. Symptoms include: Fever; Chills; Low alertness.
 - Pneumococcus bacteria causes up to half of middle ear infections (otitis media). Symptoms include: Ear pain; A red, swollen ear drum; Fever and sleepiness, sometimes.

How is it spread?

- Occurs as the result of direct person-to-person contact via respiratory droplets
- Autoinoculation in persons carrying the bacteria in their upper respiratory tract.
- Different pneumococcal serotypes have different propensities for causing asymptomatic colonization, otitis media, meningitis, and pneumonia. Spread within a family or household is influenced by such factors as household crowding and viral respiratory infections.

Where is it found?

- *S. pneumoniae* is a human pathogen.
- The reservoir for pneumococci is the nasopharynx of asymptomatic humans. There is no animal or insect vector.

Prevention and Control?

- The best way to prevent pneumococcal disease is by getting vaccinated. The pneumococcal vaccine is a shot that helps protect against some of the more than 90 types of pneumococcal bacteria. NEW! Adults 65 years or older are now recommended 2 pneumococcal vaccines.
- The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) is given to children in the first two years of life and to certain adults with conditions that weaken their immune system.
- The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) is given to adults 65 years of age and older, as well as children and younger adults with certain high-risk conditions.
- Since it's not common for people to develop an infection after being exposed to someone with a pneumococcal infection, prophylactic (preventative) antibiotics are not recommended for contacts of patients with such infections.
- Droplet precautions in addition to standard precautions are observed.

For more information contact:



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Source:

[http://www.cdc.gov/
pneumococcal/index.
html](http://www.cdc.gov/pneumococcal/index.html)



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