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**Title:** Red cell distribution wide (RDW) as severity biomarker in patients with community-acquired pneumonia (CAP)

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**Body:** INTRODUCTION Some biomarkers as Proadrenomedullin (proADM), alone or with severity scores, have showed their usefulness for assessing severity of community acquired pneumonia (CAP). Red cell distribution width (RDW) has been proposed as prognostic mortality factor. MATERIALS AND METHODS We conducted a prospective study of 282 immunocompetent adult patients admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of CAP, and correlated their PSI score and proADM levels with their RDW ad admittance. RESULTS RDW showed a weak linear correlation, but highly significant with both PSI (CC: 0,442, p<0.001) and proADM (CC:0,346, p<0.001). The lineal regression coefficient of DRW with PSI score was as well significant (p<0.001).

CONCLUSION Like as proADM, RDW seems is a good predictor of severity of CAP at the time of admission. Unlike biomarkers usually studied, it is a cheap, rapid and widely available test, and deserves a further research.