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Title: Clinical characteristics and outcomes of community acquired pneumonia (CAP) in adults ≥ 18 years of age in a well defined area of Badalona, Spain

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Body: Background: It is known that CAP often requires hospital admission. However, the prevalence between hospitalizations and outpatient visits for CAP is not well established. Objective: To analyse differences between adults with CAP treated as inpatients or as outpatients in a well-defined health care area. Methods: Retrospective review of medical records of patients ≥ 18 years old diagnosed with CAP from January 1st 2008 to December 31st 2009 belonging to Badalona (population ≥ 18 years: 90315) and attended by 6 primary care centres and 2 hospitals. Results: 581 patients were included in the study (incidence rate: 6/1000 adults). 71.5% were diagnosed at hospital settings. Hospitalised patients (41.5%) were older (mean age: 66.6 years vs. outpatients: 51 years; $p < 0.001$) and had more comorbidities. Inpatient admission was associated with liver disease (OR=5.9), stroke (OR=3.6), dementia (OR=3.5), COPD (OR=2.9), diabetes mellitus (OR=1.9) and age (OR= 1.1); $p < 0.002$. Among cases with microbiological tests done (61.9%; 100% of inpatients vs. 35% of outpatients), 48.3% had negative result (52.7% in inpatients vs. 39.5% in outpatients). Streptococcus pneumoniae was the most prevalent pathogen identified (57.5%: 71.9% in inpatients vs. 34.7% in outpatients). For inpatients, readmission rate was 19.1% and mortality rate 2.5%. Length of hospital stay was 4.4 days. Conclusions: Despite current therapeutic measures, CAP continues to be a major health issue with almost 1 out of 2 CAP patients requiring hospitalization. The increase in the future of elderly people and thus of comorbidities stress the need to implement better strategies for CAP prevention.