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**Title:** Biomarkers and severity in community-acquired pneumonia (CAP)

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**Body:** INTRODUCTION To evaluate the prognostic value of biomarkers in community-acquired pneumonia (CAP), we studied the correlations between C-reactive protein (CRP), procalcitonin (PCT), leukocyte count (WBC) and proadrenomedullin (proADM) with the widely used PSI severity score. MATERIAL AND METHODS We prospectively studied 282 immunocompetent, adults patients hospitalized with CAP, calculated their PSI score and measured on admission the mentioned four blood biomarkers. Subsequently, we established the ROC curves to determine which of the biomarkers had a better discriminating power from mild CAP (PSI 1-3) to severe ones (PSI 4-5). RESULTS PCT and proADM significantly discriminated severe from mild CAP, although the area under curve was significantly higher for proADM (0.757 vs. 0.581). The other two biomarkers did not reach statistical significance.

CONCLUSIONS ProADM is a good predictor of CAP severity at the time of admission, and can be useful, with the clinical scores to identify severe CAP. This may help us to make decisions of patients site of care and management in the early hours.