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Title: Prevalence of atypical bacterial pathogens in hospitalized patients with community-acquired pneumonia

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Body: Introduction: The prevalence of atypical pathogens in the pathogenesis of community acquired pneumonia(CAP) in adults varies between studies, whereas there is no such data concerning their role in Greece. Aims and objectives: To evaluate whether the causative agents of CAP patients correlated to atypical pathogens permits us to continue with local treatment guidelines including beta-lactams plus macrolides or quinolone monotherapy. Methods: Between 2007- 2009, a total of 375 adult patients with CAP were admitted to the emergency department of our hospital. 215 (57.3%) patients were classified as having moderate to high mortality risk according to the patients Outcome Research Team (PORT) pneumonia severity index (PSI) and CURB-65 severity score system and were hospitalized. Among these patients, 152 and 63 were male and female respectively and the mean age was 61 years old (18-80 years). Seventy eight out of the 215 hospitalized patients (36.6%), were found to be positive for any CAP related bacteria. Typical pathogens were detected in 52 out 78 patients (66.6%), while atypical pathogens were found in the remaining 26 patients (33.4%). No significance differences in PSI and CURB-65 scores were observed between patients with typical and atypical pathogens. The three most frequent pathogens was S. pneumoniae, C. pneumoniae M. pneumoniae. None patient has been found with two pathogens. Conclusions: According to our data, the causative agents of one third of CAP patients was correlated to atypical pathogens, and permits us to continue with local treatment guidelines.