

Medications

Antibiotics

ABX-guy

Pneumonia as a result of bacterial infection may be treated with antibiotics. The patient should be educated to take the full dose as prescribed, and be aware of common side effects and when to notify their provider.

Mucolytics

Mucus-lights

Mucolytics, such as acetylcysteine (Mucomyst), work to reduce the viscosity of tenacious secretions by increasing respiratory tract fluid and breaking up mucus.

Expectorants

Expelling-ants in mucus

Expectorants, such as guaifenesin, work to decrease surface tension and allows for mucus to be expelled by increasing the amount or hydration of secretions. The expectorant can also ease a cough, if one is present.

Considerations

Pneumococcal Vaccine

Nude-cock Syringe

The pneumococcal vaccine is a vaccine against the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, a common cause of pneumonia. However, it is only indicated for children under 5 years of age, adults 65 or older, and those 19 and older with certain risk factors.

Sepsis

Sepsis-snake

Sepsis can result from an infection anywhere in the body, including pneumonia. Be sure to monitor for signs of sepsis which include a fever (>38 degrees C), tachycardia (>90 bpm), tachypnea (>20 breaths), and abnormal white blood cells ($>12,000$ or $<4,000$ cells/mL).

Acute Respiratory Failure (ARF)

Acute-angle Dead Lungs

Acute respiratory failure is one of the top causes of mortality in patients with severe pneumonia. It occurs as a result of inadequate oxygen passing from the lungs into the blood. Signs and symptoms may include shortness of breath, rapid breathing, air hunger, cyanosis, or confusion.

Prevention Education

Prevention Educator

Prevention education can serve as a key factor in decreasing the spread of pneumonia, which includes educating high risk patients. Encourage individuals to stop smoking, avoid people with active infections, wash hands, maintain proper eating and sleeping habits, increase fluid intake, and stay active.