STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE

WHAT IS STREPTOCOCCUS PNEUMONIAE?

Pneumococcal disease is an infection caused by the bacteria Streptococcus pneumoniae. This disease causes blood infections, pneumonia, sinus infection, ear infection, or inflammation of the coverings of the brain and spinal column (meningitis).

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Symptoms can occur 1 to 3 days after exposure and may include the following:
 • Fever
• Shaking or chills
• Headache
• Cough
• Chest pain
• Shortness of breath
• Weakness
• Stiff neck
• Low levels of alertness

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

The bacteria are spread to others through direct contact with respiratory secretions such as saliva, mucus, and respiratory droplets.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

Treatment of pneumococcal disease consists of using antibiotics. Unfortunately, pneumococcal bacteria are becoming increasingly resistant to antibiotics. Which makes treating this disease difficult.

PREVENTION

The best way to protect against pneumococcal disease is to vaccinate. There are two kinds of pneumococcal vaccines in the United States. These vaccines protect against many but not all types of pneumococcal bacteria.

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