

Antibiotics may not help children with suspected pneumonia

March 16 2020



(HealthDay)—For children with suspected community-acquired

pneumonia (CAP) who are discharged from the emergency department, outcomes do not differ between those who do and those who do not receive antibiotic prescriptions, according to a study published online March 16 in *Pediatrics*.

Matthew J. Lipshaw, M.D., from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and colleagues performed a prospective cohort study involving children aged 3 months to 18 years who were discharged from the [emergency department](#) with suspected CAP. The association between antibiotic prescription and [treatment failure](#) was examined among 294 propensity score-matched children.

The researchers found that treatment failure did not differ significantly for children who received antibiotics and those who did not (odds ratio, 1.0; 95 percent confidence interval, 0.45 to 2.2). There was no [significant difference](#) between those with versus without antibiotics in terms of the proportion of children with return visits with hospitalization (3.4 percent for both), initiation and/or change of antibiotics (4.8 versus 6.1 percent), or parent-reported quality-of-life measures.

"Our results suggest that opportunities exist to safely manage more children with suspected CAP treated as outpatients without antibiotics," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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Citation: Antibiotics may not help children with suspected pneumonia (2020, March 16) retrieved 7 August 2024 from

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