

# Rates of macrolide resistance in *S. pneumoniae* high across the U.S.

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(HealthDay)—There are high rates of macrolide-resistant *Streptococcus*

*pneumoniae* throughout the United States, according to a study published online Feb. 4 in *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*.

Vikas Gupta, Pharm.D., from Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey, and colleagues used the BD Insights Research Database to identify 3,626 patients with a positive *S. pneumoniae* blood or respiratory culture evaluated between October 2018 and September 2019 at 329 hospitals across nine U.S. Census [geographic regions](#).

The researchers found that macrolide resistance in *S. pneumoniae* is 39.5 percent overall. Macrolide resistance was seen in 47.3 percent of *S. pneumoniae* obtained from respiratory cultures and in 29.6 percent from blood cultures. Macrolide resistance in respiratory isolates was  $\geq 25$  percent in all regions of the United States. Higher rates of macrolide resistance were seen among ambulatory patients (45.3 percent) versus inpatients (37.8 percent).

"The high rates of macrolide-resistant *S. pneumoniae* throughout the United States [are] the latest in mounting evidence for the need to combat the public health risks of antibiotic resistance," a coauthor said in a statement. "Indiscriminate use of macrolides for viral conditions has been highlighted during COVID-19; the corollary here is clinicians now need to consider alternatives to macrolide monotherapy for suspected community-acquired pneumonia."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to [pharmaceutical companies](#), including Nabriva Therapeutics, which funded the study.

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