

**COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA: IMPORTANCE OF
ATYPICAL PATHOGENS AS REPRESENTED BY MYCOPLASMA
PNEUMONIAE**

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Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) still remains the important medical and social problem. The rate of occurrence of CAP in the Ukraine amounted to 4.25 per 1000 of the population in 2001. The aim of our study was evaluate the type and frequency of various pathogens underlying CAP in hospitalized patients. We investigated 50 adult patients with radiographically confirmed CAP. The mean age of the patients was 25.3 ± 2.6 years and there were 42 men and 8 women in the group. Routine microbiological tests of sputum were used for the detection of *S. pneumoniae*, *H. influenzae*, and *K. pneumoniae*. The indirect immuno-fluorescent assay Pneumo-Slide (Vircell) was used for the detection of IgM against *M. pneumoniae* and *C. pneumoniae*. In 30 patients (60%), the pathogens have been detected with the following, rounded off, frequency: *S. pneumoniae* in 12 (40%), *H. influenzae* in 1 (3%), *K. pneumoniae* in 2 (7%), *M. pneumoniae* in 13 (43%), and *C. pneumoniae* in 2 (7%) cases. Additionally, a combination of *S. pneumoniae* and *M. pneumoniae* was detected in 4 patients (13%) from among the patients under consideration. We conclude that atypical pathogens, as represented in this study by *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, are detected so frequently as the typical ones, as the bacteriological background underlying CAP. The knowledge of prevalence of particular atypical pathogens in a given population (city, country) will help select the most suitable empirical antibiotic therapy.